

IN RE:

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION  
LISTENING SESSION

---

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL OF MARINE AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE  
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, Florida  
September 15, 2006  
10:00 a.m.

MODERATED BY:

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1     PANEL MEMBERS:

2     The Secretary of Commerce  
3     The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez  
4     Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce  
5     Room 5516  
6     14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
7     Washington, DC 20320  
8     Telephone: 202-482-2000

9     University of Miami - Rosenstiel School  
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13    U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
14    Sam D. Hamilton  
15    Regional Director Southeast Region  
16    1875 Century Boulevard Northeast  
17    Suite 400  
18    Atlanta, GA 30345

19    NOAA Fisheries Service  
20    Dr. Roy Crabtree  
21    Regional Administrator  
22    Southeast Region  
23    263 13th Avenue South  
24    St. Petersburg, FL 33701

25    NOAA National Ocean Service  
26    Daniel J. Basta  
27    Director  
28    National Marine Sanctuary Program  
29    1305 East-West Highway  
30    Silver Spring, MD 20910

31    Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
32    Bob Ballard

33    Deputy Secretary  
34    3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
35    Tallahassee, FL 32399

36    Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
37    Kenneth D. Haddad  
38    Executive Director  
39    620 South Meridian Street  
40    Tallahassee, FL 32399

41

1     ALSO PRESENT:

2     Harriet Carter on behalf of  
3     U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
4     18th District of Florida

5     Rock Salt  
6     Special Assistant to Secretary Kempthorne  
7     Department of Interior

8     John Halas - Upper Region Manager  
9     Kent Edwards - Lower Region Manager  
10    Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

11    Dr. Barry Rosen  
12    U.S. Geological Survey

13    Dan Kimball  
14    Superintendent Everglades National Park  
15    National Park Service

16

17    Professor Luis Glaser  
18    Special Assistant  
19    Rosenstiel School

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1       THEREUPON, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HELD:

2               MS. LINNENBRINK: Good morning, everyone,  
3       and welcome to the 13th of 24 Cooperative  
4       Conservation Listening Sessions being held  
5       across the country.

6               I would like to invite today's host, Dean  
7       Otis Brown, from the University of Miami's  
8       Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric  
9       Science to please come up and make some opening  
10      remarks.

11              He is also going to welcome you, too.

12              DEAN OTIS BROWN: Good morning. It's my  
13      pleasure to host today's event. I would like  
14      to welcome this distinguished panel, guests.

15              Gentlemen, please have a seat, by the way.

16              Visitors and the Virginia Key Community,  
  
17      and everyone who came to listen and to speak at  
18      this Cooperative Conservation Listening Session  
19      today with Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez, I  
20      bring special greetings from President Donna  
21      Shalala and Provost Thomas LeBlanc, who could  
22      not attend. Professor Luis Glaser, down here  
23      in the front row, is Special Assistant to the  
24      President and former Provost, who is  
25      representing the president.

1           In case this is your first time visiting  
2           us on this campus, the Rosenstiel School is one  
3           of 11 schools at the University of Miami. It's  
4           the third school of marine science established  
5           in the U.S. Since 1943, we've grown from a  
6           boathouse to a leading international  
7           institution with over 100 faculty and more than  
8           200 graduate students.

9           We are here, as you notice, on Virginia  
10          Key. This community includes NOAA's Atlantic  
11          Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory,  
12          and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center.  
13          Across the causeway, the Mast Academy High  
14          School. And the Miami Seaquarium is next door.  
15          That means we are doing effectively from nine  
16          to any age education and outreach on Virginia  
17          Key.

18          Our faculty and students regularly  
19          interact with these other institutions. There  
20          are more collectively than 1,000 scientists on  
21          Virginia Key that are collaboratively engaged  
22          on environmental issues.

23          Here at Rosenstiel we specialize in  
24          Bradford Education and Research in a broad  
25          scope of marina and atmospheric sciences and

1 policy. Oceans in Human Health, Hurricane  
2 Modeling and Prediction, Genomics,  
3 Agriculture, Coastal Observing, and Coral Reefs  
4 are just some of the areas of concern.

5 I hope it wouldn't surprise you if I said  
6 that we are also doing research on earthquakes,  
7 tsunamis and volcanoes. It's kind of maybe a  
8 surprise for a marine school.

9 Our collective curiosity about this planet  
10 and its oceans goes way beyond tropical  
11 systems. Besides this location, we also at  
12 South Dade have a location near Metro Zoo that  
13 houses a Center for Southeastern Tropical  
14 Advanced Remote Sensing which specializes in  
15 high resolution observation of the earth using  
16 visible and synthetic aperture radar  
17 approaches.

18 Our labs more than that exude in some  
19 interesting new directions with two  
20 laboratories installed on a Royal Caribbean  
21 cruise ship, Explorer of the Seas, which is a  
22 cooperative venture with NOAA, ONR, NSF and  
23 Royal Caribbean. This is the only cooperative  
24 project of its kind on a publicly accessible  
25 vessel which shares the latest science with



1 more than 3,800 passengers per week.

2 We are proud to host public events like  
3 this to bring together a variety of government  
4 officials, academic students and concerned  
5 citizens to discuss issues. Here at the  
6 Rosenstiel School where so many of our  
7 researchers study in corals, fisheries and  
8 other aspects of subtropical and tropical  
9 ecosystems, conservation is a key motivator.

10 We live and work in a city that thrives because  
11 people want to come here, live here, because of  
12 its natural beauty. Tourism and development  
13 help make this area and many other areas in the  
14 tropics economically viable.

15 However, we can't lose sight of what drew  
16 interest in the place to begin with. The  
17 challenge is finding a balance between urban  
18 development and sustaining a tropical or  
19 subtropical ecosystem. That's why the Federal  
20 Government recognizes the need for public  
21 input, your input. It's essential.

22 This Cooperative Conservation Listening  
23 Session is the place to express your insight  
24 and concerns directly to the ears of the  
25 Federal Government as represented on this

1 panel. If there's some way the Rosenstiel  
2 School and the University of Miami can help  
3 you, please visit us again and talk with us.

4 We will be starting our evening public lecture  
5 series a bit later this fall and we hope you  
6 all attend.

7 Thanks. And we are looking forward to a  
8 really wonderful meeting.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, Dr. Brown.

11 My name is Monica Linnenbrink and I'll be  
12 monitoring today's session. I would like to  
13 ask Ted Miller to please come down to the  
14 podium here. He is going to open the session  
15 by singing the National Anthem. So if  
16 everybody could please stand.

17 (Thereupon, the National Anthem was sang)

18 MS. LINNENBRINK: Please be seated. Thank  
19 you, Mr. Miller. That was wonderful.

20 At this time, if everyone will please  
21 check your cell phones and other electronic  
22 devices to make sure they are either off or in  
23 the silent mode. Thank you.

24 Now, I'm just going to quickly review the  
25 agenda that we will follow today, along with a

1 process that we'll use for public input.

2 The agenda we are going to be following  
3 today is going to start with some opening  
4 remarks by our panel members that are sitting  
5 behind me. Following the opening remarks and  
6 introductions, I will then move right into the  
7 public listening section of today's session.

8 The process that we are going to use today  
9 is designed to hear from as many people as  
10 possible while giving everyone equal chance to  
11 be heard.

12 When you walked in this morning you all  
13 should have received a cream colored index card  
14 that looks like this (indicating). The cards  
15 are numbered. I will be calling you down in  
16 order of the number on the card starting with  
17 No. 1.

18 When your card is called, if you'll please  
19 come to one of these microphones in the front  
20 of the room. And before you start your  
21 comments, I'd like for you to provide your  
22 name, spell it for our court reporter, Tammy,  
23 over here, identify the city and state where  
24 you're from, and also please tell us if you're  
25 representing an organization today.

1           If you do not wish to provide oral  
2           comment, you can provide written comment.  
3           Instructions on how to provide written comment  
4           are on one side of your index card. You can  
5           provide it via mail, e-mail or fax. All  
6           methods of input are weighted equally so if you  
7           provide oral comments today it's going to be  
8           weighted the same as if you provide written  
9           comments.

10           Today you will get approximately two  
11           minutes to speak. I realize that's not much  
12           time but we do want to make sure that everyone  
13           gets a chance to talk to these gentlemen on the  
14           stage.

15           What I will do is I will give you two  
16           minutes. I'm going to time you up here. At  
17           the end of two minutes I'll wave this green  
18           card so that you can see it. I will give you  
19           30 more seconds to wrap up your comments. And  
20           if you're not complete at the end of those 30  
21           seconds, I will cut you off, and I do apologize  
22           in advance for having to cut you off.

23           Today my responsibility as moderator is  
24           two-fold. My first responsibility is to make  
25           sure that we move the process along, so again,

1 I will be keeping time up here. My second  
2 responsibility is to make sure that everybody  
3 remains on topic and is civil. To remain on  
4 topic, I ask that you please look at the other  
5 side of your index card. There are five  
6 Cooperative Conservation questions. If you  
7 please review those and make sure that your  
8 comments fall under those questions, at least  
9 one. They are pretty broad so I think you'll  
10 be all right as long as you're talking about  
11 conservation.

12 Also, if somebody becomes abusive or over  
13 the top, I will cut you off. Again, we want to  
14 make sure that we remain civil here today. And  
15 we haven't had any problems with the other  
16 Cooperative Conservation Listening Sessions and  
17 I don't want my home state of Florida to let me  
18 down today. So if you just remain civil, that  
19 will be wonderful.

20 Now, it's my pleasure to introduce the  
21 panel members of today's session. Today we  
22 have Federal and State representatives here to  
23 listen to your comments.

24 Our first panel member is Deputy Secretary  
25 Bob Ballard with the Florida Department of

1 Environmental Protection.

2 Our second panel member is Executive  
3 Director Ken Haddad with the Florida Fish and  
4 Wildlife Conservation Commission.

5 Our third panel member is Mr. Sam  
6 Hamilton. He is the Southeast Regional  
7 Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

8 Our next panel member is Dr. Roy Crabtree.  
9 He is the Regional Administrator for the  
10 fishery section of the National Oceanic  
11 Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA as we will  
12 probably refer to it from now on.

13 And we also have Mr. Dan Basta. He is the  
14 Director of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary's  
15 Program.

16 And finally, who we already heard from, is  
17 Dean Otis Brown. He is the Dean of the  
18 Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric  
19 Science.

20 At this time I would like to give the  
21 panel members an opportunity to provide opening  
22 remarks. If Deputy Secretary Ballard would  
23 please come down to provide some opening  
24 remarks.

25 MR. BALLARD: Good morning. On behalf of

1 Governor Bush and Secretary Colleen Castille, I  
2 welcome everybody here to the listening session  
3 today.

4 I think that you're going to see a theme  
5 throughout this morning and that's  
6 partnerships. We've got some wonderful  
7 partnerships with our Federal Government and we  
8 are really excited about that. People like  
9 Billy Causey, Dan Basta, Dan Kimball, who is  
10 sitting here in the audience, who have been  
11 instrumental in helping us with things like the  
12 Dry Tortugas Management Plan that's coming  
13 before the Board of Trustees, Governor and  
14 Cabinet later on this year, with the Florida  
15 Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

16 Here in Florida we have three nerves. And  
17 in those three nerves we have two education  
18 centers that exist right now. One that's run  
19 at Rookery Bay. We've got Gary Lytton in the  
20 audience, who is the manager of the Rookery Bay  
21 National Estuarine Research Reserve.

22 We have an education center brand spanking  
23 new out at GTM, Guana Tolomato Matanzas  
24 National Estuarine Research Reserve. That's a  
25 mouthful, but that just opened up to rave

1        reviews from the people just south of  
2        Jacksonville. And a new one about to open up  
3        with Federal and State money in Apalachicola so  
4        we are excited about that.

5            One of the things that I hope we hear  
6        today, because I know that I'm very interested  
7        in, is help with funding to continue the  
8        projects that we have, and to enhance some new  
9        projects that we are working on, such as the  
10       Oceans and Coastal Observance System which is  
11       in unison with the Global Earth Observing  
12       System that Dan and his team have really pushed  
13       forward to create.

14           Florida receives \$425 billion because of  
15       its ocean and coastal areas. It is the  
16       lifeblood of Florida. And in order for us to  
17       enhance and continue our programs, we need  
18       strong partnerships.

19           So I'm pleased to welcome our partners  
20       here to Florida today, and I want and I hope  
21       that we will continue the great partnerships  
22       that we have and the future funding in the  
23       future, so thank you very much.

24           (Applause)

25           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, Deputy



1           Secretary Ballard. I would now like to ask  
2           Director Haddad from the Florida Fish and  
3           Wildlife Conservation Commission to make his  
4           opening remarks.

5                   MR. HADDAD: Thank you, and it is a  
6           pleasure to be here representing the Florida  
7           Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. I  
8           just wanted to very quickly let you know who we  
9           are. We are a relatively new agency and there  
10          may be some in the audience that don't know our  
11          responsibilities, so you will know what I'm  
12          listening to when you're talking or you can  
13          direct it to me when you're talking.

14                   We are a new agency formed in 1999. We  
15          have broad authority, regulatory and  
16          management, over Florida's fish and wildlife  
17          species. And that is manifested in our  
18          responsibility for freshwater fisheries  
19          management, marine fisheries management,  
20          hunting and game management, law enforcement.  
21          We have the largest conservation law  
22          enforcement team in the nation. And finally,  
23          the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, which  
24          is our biologic form of applied science arm for  
25          technical information.

1           Our broad range of responsibilities bring  
2           us into partnership with Federal agencies on a  
3           very routine basis, ranging from the Florida  
4           Keys National Marine Sanctuary to cooperative  
5           management of federally endangered threatened  
6           species, to marine fisheries management and  
7           many other areas of responsibility that you  
8           find in Department of Commerce, Interior and  
9           the EPA.

10           And so I look forward to listening to your  
11           comments and hopefully have time afterward to  
12           talk to any of you that have issues. I do see  
13           some familiar faces in the audience that have  
14           come and spoken publicly, and I'm glad to see  
15           you here.

16           (Applause)

17           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank, Director Haddad.

18           Now I would like to ask Mr. Sam Hamilton  
19           with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to come  
20           down and make his opening remarks.

21           MR. HAMILTON: Good morning. It's a  
22           pleasure to be here today representing  
23           Secretary Kempthorne for the Department of  
24           Interior.

25           Normally I'm introduced as the Regional

1       Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. As  
2       many of you know, there are a lot of activities  
3       that we are involved with in South Florida, and  
4       certainly our National Wildlife Refuges, the  
5       Federally Endangered Species Program, some  
6       marine mammal work, again -- migratory birds,  
7       so we have a lot of activities throughout the  
8       state of Florida and certainly in South  
9       Florida.

10           But in the Department of the Interior  
11       there are a number of other bureaus that touch  
12       many of the lives of you in this room and all  
13       across Florida. And I think it's a reflection  
14       on the great natural resources that the state  
15       of Florida has, and certainly a great number of  
16       people that interact with them, the National  
17       Park Service and the great parks that we have  
18       in the state of Florida.

19           USGS, which does a lot of research. You  
20       heard a little bit about earthquakes and  
21       volcanoes. There's certainly a lot of marine  
22       research that goes on at USGS.

23           MMS, which does a lot of the offshore oil  
24       and gas leasing. And Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
25       which is very active in this state also. So we

1       are very pleased to be here. There is a lot  
2       going on in South Florida, including the  
3       Everglades Restoration Program, which we are  
4       actively involved with. We have a great  
5       relationship with the state agencies here and  
6       we work hard at that, so it's a pleasure to be  
7       here and be the listener, which is what this is  
8       all about. Thank you.

9                (Applause)

10               MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, Regional  
11       Director Hamilton. I apologize if I messed  
12       that up. I think I got it right at the  
13       beginning but I just introduced you as the U.S.  
14       Fish and Wildlife Representative. He is the  
15       Southeast Regional Director of the U.S. Fish  
16       and Wildlife Service.

17               The way this session is designed, it's not  
18       designed for you to have an interchange with  
19       the panel members from the microphone so it  
20       will not be a give and take session. You'll  
21       just be providing comments from the microphone.

22               However, if you do have questions for the  
23       panel members at the break or after the  
24       session, they will be here to provide any  
25       answers to your questions or if you just want

1 to provide additional feedback.

2 At this time we are still waiting for the  
3 Secretary to arrive. He is slated to do some  
4 opening remarks when he gets here. But I would  
5 like to ask Dr. Crabtree or Mr. Basta, would  
6 you like to give some opening remarks?

7 DR. CRABTREE: Sure.

8 Good morning. I would like to welcome all  
9 of you here this morning to be with us, and  
10 look forward to hearing about the resource  
11 issues that are of concern to you.

12 At the Department of Commerce we have a  
13 number of agencies that are involved in  
14 resource management. I'm with the National  
15 Marine Fishery Service, which is a part of  
16 NOAA.

17 Dan Basta is here with the National Ocean  
18 Service and the National Marine Sanctuary  
19 Programs. Of course most of you I'm sure are  
20 familiar with the National Marine Sanctuary and  
21 the Florida Keys is close by. We also have the  
22 Flower Garden Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico  
23 and Gray's Reef Sanctuary, which is off of  
24 Georgia.

25 We have a lot of resource concerns here in

1 South Florida, in particular our coral reefs,  
2 which I think are of grave concern to all of  
3 us. You are probably aware that this summer  
4 two species of coral, the genus acropora, the  
5 elkhorn and staghorn coral, were listed as  
6 threatened under the Endangered Species Act.  
7 So we have a lot of challenges ahead of us to  
8 protect our reefs.

9 Also among our responsibilities are the  
10 protection of turtles when they are in the  
11 water, and Fish and Wildlife Service takes  
12 over the turtle protection when they come  
13 ashore. But we have a lot of challenges in  
14 terms of protecting turtles, and we have made a  
15 lot of progress, I think, on reducing fishery  
16 interactions and other issues of turtles.

17 And then finally among our  
18 responsibilities are fishing, fishery  
19 management. We work closely with the three  
20 regional Federal councils, the Gulf of Mexico,  
21 South Atlantic and the Caribbean. We try to  
22 ensure that we have sustainable fisheries for  
23 the future and we work closely with our state  
24 partners on that.

25 So again, on behalf of the Department of

1 Commerce, we welcome all of you here and I look  
2 forward to listening to your concerns today.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, Dr. Crabtree.

5 Before the secretary arrives, I would like  
6 to review the public input process one more  
7 time for those that may have come in late.

8 The process that we are going to follow is  
9 designed so that we can hear from as many  
10 people as possible while giving everyone in the  
11 room an opportunity to be heard.

12 When you came in, you all should have  
13 received a cream colored index card. The index  
14 cards are numbered. So I'm going to call you  
15 down to the microphone in order of the number  
16 on your card, starting with No. 1.

17 When your number is called, if you'd  
18 please come down to the microphone, state your  
19 name, spell it for our court reporter, Tammy,  
20 over here. Identify the city and state where  
21 you're from, and also please identify if you're  
22 representing an organization. You might be  
23 here on behalf of yourself, but if you're  
24 representing an organization, please let us  
25 know.

1           Today try and limit your comments to two  
2           minutes. I will be timing you up here. And at  
3           the end of two minutes I will wave this green  
4           colored card. After I wave this green card,  
5           you will have 30 more seconds to wrap up your  
6           comments. And after that thirty-second period,  
7           I will cut you off. And again, I apologize for  
8           cutting you off.

9           I'm here today to keep everything moving  
10          along so I will be keeping track of time. And  
11          my second responsibility is to make sure we  
12          remain on topic and remain civil.

13          To remain on topic, please refer to this  
14          side of your index card. It has five  
15          Cooperative Conservation questions, and please  
16          make sure that your comments fall under at  
17          least one of those questions. You can also  
18          provide written comments via mail, e-mail or  
19          fax, and the directions on how to do that are  
20          on one side of your index card. All methods of  
21          input are weighted equally.

22          Before we get this session started, I  
23          would like to recognize some dignitaries that  
24          are in the audience. We have some  
25          representation from -- we have Harriet over



1           here from Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen. I'm  
2           sorry.

3           MS. CARTER: Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

4           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you. I think the  
5           secretary is arriving here shortly so I  
6           apologize for holding it up here.

7           You're the only congress representative  
8           here today. Thank you for joining us. And she  
9           also recommended the wonderful National Anthem  
10          singer, Ted, here.

11          And again, this session is designed to not  
12          have an interchange between the microphone and  
13          the panel members. So you will not be able to  
14          ask the panel members questions, but you can at  
15          the break or following the session.

16          There are also some individuals here  
17          representing from a local level, other Federal  
18          agencies and State agencies. We have Rock  
19          Salt, if you please stand up. He is  
20          representing the Department of Interior. He is  
21          a Special Assistant to Secretary Kempthorne.

22          We also have John Halas from the Florida  
23          Keys National Marine Sanctuary. If you have  
24          questions for him, he will be happy to answer  
25          them. He is the Upper Region Manager. And

1           then we also have Kent Edwards here today. He  
2           is the lower region manager.

3                   And we also have Dr. Barry Rosen from the  
4           U.S. Geological Survey. So if you have  
5           questions for him, he will be happy to answer  
6           those questions as well.

7                   I think there is also Serena from the U.S.  
8           Fish and Wildlife Service. She is here to  
9           provide any questions related to fish and  
10          wildlife, if you have any. There is a few  
11          other fish and wildlife representatives here as  
12          well.

13                  I believe there is also a representative  
14          from the National Park Service. The guys in  
15          uniform. I should have known. Thanks for  
16          coming.

17                  MR. KIMBALL: Dan Kimball, Everglades  
18          National Park Superintendent on behalf of  
19          National Park Service.

20                  MS. LINNENBRINK: Dan Kimball. Thank you  
21          very much.

22                  All right. I'm sorry again. I'm going to  
23          wait a few more minutes. We are waiting for  
24          the secretary. I guess there was a lot of  
25          traffic. I got here fine, but I got here at

1           7:00. There was no traffic.

2           Does anybody have any questions about the  
3           process that we are going to follow? You've  
4           heard it enough so I won't explain it again.

5           Mr. Basta, would you like to give some  
6           opening remarks?

7           MR. BASTA: Okay. We can waste some time.

8           You should not have given me this mike  
9           because people who know me know that's a  
10          dangerous thing to do.

11          However, while I was listening to some of  
12          the commentary, one thing that struck me is  
13          what I'm interested in hearing about and focus,  
14          because having worked down here quite a bit  
15          over the years, the Cooperative Conservation is  
16          what you do in Florida. And Florida, in fact,  
17          I would submit to you, probably is out front in  
18          how you do that in the nation.

19          So the real question for me is, what's  
20          working, what's working well, and what's not  
21          working. Since this is something that we have  
22          all been a part of creating, and this is a time  
23          to tell us, tell me particularly, what is  
24          really working, what's not working, how should  
25          it work if we are not getting the job done.

1           So I've done my job. Thank you.

2           (Applause)

3           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, Mr. Basta.

4           Now the moment we've all been waiting for.

5           I'm honored to be able to introduce the next  
6           panel member, who is the principal panel member  
7           for today's session. I would like to introduce  
8           Secretary Carlos Gutierrez from the Department  
9           of Commerce.

10          (Applause)

11          MS. LINNENBRINK: The secretary is going  
12          to provide his opening remarks now. Thank you.

13          SECRETARY GUTIERREZ: Thank you.

14          Thank you very much. Thank you. Good  
15          morning to all and thank you for coming today.  
16          I want to thank Dean Otis Brown from the  
17          University of Miami; Ken Haddad, Director from  
18          the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission; and  
19          Bob Ballard, Deputy Secretary of Florida's  
20          Department of Environmental Protection.

21          It's a great pleasure to be here in South  
22          Florida to take part in the environment and  
23          talking about conservation. Protecting the  
24          environment is a top priority for both  
25          President Bush and for Governor Bush. The

1 Governor's steadfast support of the Florida  
2 Forever Program, as well as other conservation  
3 efforts, will protect the Everglades and  
4 Florida's other special places for generations  
5 to come.

6 Like Governor Bush, President Bush also  
7 supports conservation. In June he created the  
8 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National  
9 Monument, the largest single conservation area  
10 in the history of our country, and the largest  
11 protected marine area in the world.

12 President Bush also believes that in  
13 addition to money, one of the best ways to  
14 protect the environment is through cooperation.  
15 Which means, as the President has said,  
16 focusing on the needs of states, respecting the  
17 unique knowledge of local authorities, and  
18 welcoming the help of landowners, industry,  
19 conservationists and volunteers. Quite simply  
20 put, we don't believe that Washington has all  
21 the answers, but we can provide our communities  
22 with resources.

23 So I am very pleased to announce today  
24 that as part of an ongoing effort to support  
25 the off-shore farm-raised seafood industry,

1           today we are announcing \$550,000 in grants to  
2           the University of Miami.

3                   (Appause)

4           These grants are part of a larger  
5           \$3.6 million package of grants by the National  
6           Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. All  
7           told, the 11 grants are being awarded to  
8           coastal states across the nation from Florida  
9           to Hawaii to increase aquaculture production  
10          and to address the environmental effects.

11          The grants to the University of Miami show  
12          an ongoing commitment to developing this young  
13          but rapidly growing industry. As seafood  
14          becomes a larger part of a healthy diet, it's  
15          expected to create 25,000 new jobs and support  
16          another 75,000 in other industries.

17          One grant for \$400,000 will finance a  
18          project to study the economic feasibility of  
19          farm-raised Cobia, one of the most popular  
20          sport fish in Florida.

21          The other grant of \$150,000 will be used  
22          to study the environmental impact of using  
23          submerged cages to raise fish in the open sea.  
24          This is a growing part of the business and  
25          needs to be rigorously evaluated for its impact

1           on the marine environment.

2           The Commerce Department plays a major  
3           role, as you know, in protecting and monitoring  
4           the environment. From forecasting the next  
5           hurricane to protecting marine life, we believe  
6           that a healthy, vibrant environment is good for  
7           our citizens and it is good for business.

8           NOAA has a long and successful history of  
9           Cooperative Conservation. NOAA has always  
10          relied on partnerships to achieve its mission.  
11          The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is  
12          an excellent example of the benefits from such  
13          cooperation.

14          The Keys have long attracted writers and  
15          explorers, scientists and adventurers,  
16          entrepreneurs and conservationists. Some  
17          2.5 million people visit the Keys each year.  
18          From the earliest beginnings of this sanctuary,  
19          the process has benefited from local input. We  
20          are lucky to have with us today some of the  
21          people who have been involved from the very,  
22          very beginning.

23          It takes only a single visit to the Keys  
24          to realize it is indeed a very special place, a  
25          place worthy of our attention, our care and our

1           preservation.

2                   I look forward to hearing from you how we  
3           can work together to ensure that generations to  
4           come can continue to experience the Keys as you  
5           and I do today.

6                   The public listening session that we are  
7           having today is one of some two dozen across  
8           the country that we are sponsoring with other  
9           Federal agencies that administer major  
10          environmental programs, including the Interior  
11          Department, the EPA, the USDA, and the  
12          President's Council on Environmental Quality.

13                  We want to hear from you. We want to talk  
14          about what we are doing right and we want to  
15          hear about how we can improve our program.

16                  President Bush wants to avoid pitting one  
17          environmental community group against the  
18          other, which has happened all too often in the  
19          past. We are seeking a dialogue today. We are  
20          seeking stronger partnerships, and we are  
21          seeking new partners, as well.

22                  So far these public sessions have been  
23          very successful. We've held them in Omaha;  
24          Helena, Montana; Honolulu; Corpus Christi,  
25          Texas; Show Low, Arizona. We've had excellent



1           turnouts. And as I'm seeing today, we are  
2           having a great turnout here, and we are looking  
3           forward to your thoughts, we are looking  
4           forward to your feedback. This is very, very  
5           important to us as we collect feedback from the  
6           whole country and then move forward with  
7           actions.

8                     So that's what these listening sessions  
9           are all about. I look forward to hearing what  
10          you have to say. I would like to think I'm a  
11          good listener, and I will put those skills to  
12          work this morning.

13                    So thank you very much for being here.

14                    (Applause)

15                    MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you,  
16          Mr. Secretary.

17                    Now I'd like to open the public listening  
18          section of today's session. I would like to  
19          start with card No. 1. If card No. 1 would  
20          please come to the microphone.

21                    Go ahead.

22                    SARA FAIN: Good morning, Mr. Secretary,  
23          and other members of the panel.

24                    MS. LINNENBRINK: Hold on one second. Any  
25          way we can turn them up? Can you get a little

1 closer?

2 SARA FAIN: I can speak louder. Can you  
3 hear me?

4 MS. LINNENBRINK: Okay. Go ahead.

5 SARA FAIN: Good morning. It really is a  
6 pleasure and a privilege and honor to be the  
7 first one as a member of the public to welcome  
8 you here, and thank you very much for taking  
9 this opportunity to listen to the stakeholders.

10 My name is Sara Fain, S-A-R-A F-A-I-N,  
11 Miami, Florida, and I'm here today representing  
12 National Parks Conservation Association, a  
13 leading voice in protecting and enhancing our  
14 national park system for present and future  
15 generations.

16 We will shortly hear about issues that are  
17 facing our national parks throughout the  
18 country both on land and in our oceans. Today  
19 I would like to bring your attention to the  
20 issue facing one of our iconic parks that,  
21 Secretary, you mentioned, Everglades National  
22 Park and the greater Everglades ecosystem that  
23 is right here in our backyard.

24 The passage of Everglades restoration  
25 legislation marked an innovative way to restore

1       the threatened ecosystem through a  
2       Federal-State partnership.  However,  
3       implementing restoration projects through that  
4       partnership has really proven to be a  
5       challenge.

6               Although both the state of Florida and our  
7       Federal Government adopted the comprehensive  
8       Everglades Restoration Plan in 2000, to date  
9       not a single restoration project has been  
10      authorized by Congress.  Cooperative  
11      Conservation should mean that this  
12      Federal-State partnership for Everglades  
13      restoration be reinvigorated.

14             The administration should work with  
15      Congress to ensure that the Water Resources  
16      Development Act of 2005 is signed into law.  
17      This act will authorize the first project under  
18      the comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

19             The administration should also work with  
20      Congress to ensure full funding of the  
21      President's 2007 budget for Everglades  
22      restoration.  Unfortunately, as it stands, the  
23      Senate's companion legislation proposes to cut  
24      that funding by approximately \$64 million.  By  
25      totally funding the President's budget request,

1           we can ensure progress towards restoration.

2                   While we do support Cooperative  
3           Conservation as part of achieving restoration,  
4           critical Federal funding and authorization for  
5           these projects must be provided to support the  
6           implementation of the restoration plan in the  
7           years ahead.

8                   The passage of the two bills this year  
9           will go a long way solidifying Federal support  
10          for restoration of America's Everglades and  
11          will show the Federal Government's commitment  
12          to its partners.

13                   As Marjory Stoneman Douglas stated many  
14          years ago, "There are no other Everglades in  
15          the world." Now, as the National Park Service  
16          prepares for its centennial and Everglades  
17          National Park prepares for its 60th birthday,  
18          we urge you to continue your leadership role in  
19          ensuring the future of one of America's  
20          greatest treasures.

21                   Thank you very much for this opportunity.

22                   MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am. I  
23          appreciate that.

24                   (Applause)

25                   MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 2.

1           NIKKI POULOS: Welcome, and thank you,  
2           Secretary Gutierrez, panel, members of the  
3           community. It's a pleasure to be able to speak  
4           to you today. My name is Nikki Poulos,  
5           N-I-K-K-I P-O-U-L-O-S. I'm representing  
6           Florida Department of Environmental Protection,  
7           Southeast Florida Coral Reef Program. We  
8           manage the -- excuse me, we manage the  
9           Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative.

10          With guidance from the United States Coral  
11          Reef Task Force, and support from the U.S.  
12          Department of Commerce through NOAA's Office of  
13          Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the  
14          state of Florida coordinated the implementation  
15          of a team of marine resource professionals,  
16          scientists, non-governmental organizations and  
17          local stakeholders representing over 50  
18          agencies and organizations to develop the  
19          Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative or  
20          SEFCRI.

21          The SEFCRI initiative is a local action  
22          strategy designed to facilitate the first  
23          coordinated public education and resource  
24          management program for the reefs north of the  
25          Florida Keys, which aren't as well known as the

1 Florida Keys but they are in Martin, Broward  
2 and Palm Beach Counties.

3 The support we received through the NOAA  
4 Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program through  
5 the local action strategy has enabled the state  
6 of Florida to leverage state resources to  
7 provide a recurring one-to-one match to the  
8 Federal funding we receive.

9 This funding has enabled Florida to put  
10 into action its plan to address causes of local  
11 Coral Reef degradation and develop a road map  
12 to successful conservation and management by  
13 providing direct support in a technical  
14 capacity in 140 local action strategy projects.

15 One of the greatest successes of Florida's  
16 local action strategy is how it's brought  
17 together individuals from so many different  
18 constituencies to work together side by side  
19 for the benefit of our coral reefs. Our  
20 partners have contributed their knowledge,  
21 skills, time, in kind resources, funding and  
22 passion to implement the Southeast Florida  
23 Coral Reef Initiative.

24 This has contributed to the development of  
25 other collaborating methods such as the Florida

1        Reef Resilience Program, a larger regional and  
2        international program designed to improve our  
3        understanding of factors that influence  
4        long-term resilience on Florida's reefs.

5            Mr. Secretary, we appreciate your visit to  
6        South Florida today to learn about our  
7        cooperative efforts and hope that what you can  
8        learn today will inspire you to continue to  
9        support successful programs like the Southeast  
10       Florida Coral Reef Initiative to protect our  
11       nation's invaluable coral reef. Thank you.

12           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am. Card  
13        No. 3.

14            (Applause)

15            KENT EDWARDS: Good morning. I'm Kent  
16        Edwards, K-E-N-T E-D-W-A-R-D-S, from Key West,  
17        Florida. I'm an Environmental Administrator  
18        with the Florida Department of Environmental  
19        Protection, and I work in the Florida Keys  
20        National Marine Sanctuary Program.

21            I'm very pleased to be a part of that  
22        program. And before I took the position, I  
23        took a trip to the Keys, which I've done for  
24        many years, but I actually asked the community,  
25        people that I met, about the sanctuary program.

1           And everyone that I met, the hotel owner,  
2           the dive shop owner, several realtors, the  
3           grocery clerk, and everyone else had really  
4           glowing things to say about the sanctuary. I  
5           think that reflects very well from the outreach  
6           and the job that the sanctuary is doing. So  
7           we've faced a lot of it, the environmental  
8           challenges, the sanctuary has established  
9           itself in a cooperative and a coordination  
10          role.

11          One of the examples of this is this  
12          Sanctuary Advisory Council, a 20-member council  
13          that's broadly represented commercial  
14          interests, public interests, elected officials,  
15          academic organizations, private citizens and  
16          government representatives also.

17          That group is very well informed and  
18          engaged more than any public group that I have  
19          ever seen, and I think that that supports the  
20          idea that the environment is very important to  
21          the Keys lifestyle.

22          Another partnership is the Florida  
23          Resiliency Program, and they are studying reef  
24          areas that are enduring the degradation to  
25          other areas, trying to use that technology to



1       restore other areas. Involved in that is the  
2       U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, Nature Conservancy,  
3       NOAA, State of Florida, Southern University,  
4       University of South Florida, Institute of  
5       Marine Remote Sensing, Great Barrier Reef  
6       Marine Park, and certainly many of others.

7               One of the main focus areas that I see is  
8       environmental monitoring and getting  
9       information for good decision making. The  
10      Water Quality Protection Program was developed  
11      jointly by EPA, NOAA, State of Florida, Monroe  
12      County and many other local representatives.  
13      And they have a targeted Water Quality Resource  
14      Monitoring Program that's been going on for 11  
15      years now.

16             This information that is gathered is very  
17      important to decision makers, and an example of  
18      that is that it has been a support for levying  
19      millions of dollars in projects for storm water  
20      and waste water in Key West and Key Largo and  
21      other areas, and that can give data that we  
22      would downstream then to the CERP project.

23             There are other educational projects such  
24      as the Eco-Discovery Building in Key West is  
25      going to be a world class facility, and also we

1           have the volunteer program that last year had  
2           over 8,000 hours contributed.

3           So I'm here to thank our partners and the  
4           Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
5           Commission and NOAA and say that the Florida  
6           Keys National Marine Sanctuary efforts are very  
7           productive and effective. Thank you.

8           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

9           (Applause)

10          MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 4. Card No. 4.

11          MR. GINSBURG: Robert Ginsburg,  
12          G-I-N-S-B-U-R-G. I live in Coral Gables and I  
13          represent the Rosenstiel School Ocean Research  
14          and Education Facility.

15          Secretary Gutierrez, members of the panel,  
16          ladies and gentlemen. I'm here to urge an  
17          expansion of NOAA's International Program of  
18          Coral Reefs and Marine Resources and Tropical  
19          Western Atlantic for good and sufficient  
20          reasons.

21          The first one is our reefs in Florida,  
22          Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are part of  
23          a giant extended family that includes all the  
24          reefs in the entire region, the Gulf of Mexico,  
25          Caribbean, Florida and the Bahamas.

1           Moreover, all those reefs are  
2           interconnected by the Gulf Stream system  
3           currently. And what that means is that we here  
4           in Florida get larvae of lobsters, juvenile  
5           fish, and corals from Central America. And it  
6           also means that anything that happens in the  
7           region can impact our reefs; pollution, for  
8           example, as far away as Panama could have an  
9           effect.

10           Those circumstances, seems to me, mandate  
11           that we must have very close knowledge of what  
12           goes on in the entire region if we are going to  
13           maintain our reefs. In other words, if we are  
14           going to protect them and preserve them, we  
15           must pay attention to the reefs of the regions  
16           just as we pay attention to diseases, human  
17           diseases, all over the world.

18           Secondly, most of the countries in this  
19           region depend on tourism, development and  
20           marine resources for their economies. And we  
21           are obliged, it seems to me, to help them  
22           maintain those resources, not only so the  
23           economies can be healthy but also that it might  
24           help us deter any further degradation.

25           A specific example of NOAA'S use of local

1           and focus attention on U.S. reefs where  
2           regional considerations are important is the  
3           threatened species of corals, three species  
4           that have enormous declines in the last few  
5           decades. Those species are spread throughout  
6           the region so we can no more consider only our  
7           reefs in planning the strategy for remediating  
8           the loss than we could if we were considering  
9           diseases, human diseases. We have to look  
10          outside our own waters.

11                 It seems to me these circumstances as I've  
12           outlined are enough to insist that we expand  
13           the existing programs of reef connections and  
14           reef research to the entire region.

15                 Thank you.

16                 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

17                 (Applause)

18                 MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 5. Card No. 5.

19                 MS. SHAW: Good morning. Thank you for  
20           coming, gentlemen, and thank you for the  
21           opportunity to comment.

22                 My name is Deborah Shaw, D-E-B-O-R-A-H,  
23           S-H-A-W. And I'm representing -- I hold the  
24           Research and Monitoring Chair on the Sanctuary  
25           Advisory Council for the Florida Keys National

1 Sanctuary.

2 MS. LINNENBRINK: I'm sorry to interrupt,  
3 ma'am. Can you guys hear her?

4 A VOICE: No. Barely.

5 MS. LINNENBRINK: I'm going to try to fix  
6 your microphone, okay.

7 MS. SHAW: I'm fighting a cold so I'm  
8 trying to project.

9 Does that help? I will try to speak  
10 directly into the mike.

11 To start again. Thank you for coming to  
12 South Florida and thank you for the opportunity  
13 to comment. I'm Deborah Shaw, D-E-B-O-R-A-H,  
14 S-H-A-W. And I'm representing two groups  
15 today. I hold the Research and Monitoring  
16 Chair on the Sanctuary Advisory Council for the  
17 Florida Keys National Sanctuary, and I'm also  
18 representing my employer. I'm the  
19 Environmental Affairs Manager for Florida Keys  
20 Electric Cooperative.

21 I want to give two brief examples I think  
22 of Cooperative Conservation, and the first is a  
23 shining success, the Florida Keys National  
24 Marine Sanctuary, and I will just tell you why  
25 I think it is a success.

1           The superintendent -- former  
2           superintendent, Dr. Billy Causey, the present  
3           superintendent, Dave Score, and their  
4           outstanding staffs have always reached out to  
5           all user groups, both supporters and opponents  
6           of the sanctuary, and reached out to all parts  
7           of the community.

8           They were all -- all groups brought to the  
9           table for discussions on forming the sanctuary  
10          and for discussions on how to manage it and how  
11          to keep modifying. As time progresses,  
12          modifying a new management plan. So that's the  
13          key. Bringing all user groups together and  
14          making everyone welcome, even if they oppose,  
15          even if they support, to make the sanctuary  
16          work, and it has worked extremely well.

17          We have opponents now coming -- former  
18          opponents of the sanctuary to come in to speak  
19          to the council and say how they see differences  
20          in the fish population in some areas and we do  
21          have a shining success there.

22          On the other hat that I wear, I will put  
23          my hard hat on now, for the electric co-op.  
24          And this is an example of a frustration, and  
25          I'm just going to speak generally because

1       there's no need to go into specific projects.  
2       But we have had, at FKEC, a good working  
3       relationship with all the local, state and  
4       Federal agencies, the environmental agencies,  
5       for years. And I have no frustration with the  
6       staff or the people working, they are dedicated  
7       working folks.

8               The frustration comes in the length of  
9       time sometimes needed to obtain permits.  
10       Agencies are hogtied by the prospect of  
11       lawsuits. No matter what they do, if a  
12       contentious permit is issued, the agency will  
13       be sued by project opponents. If the permit is  
14       not issued, then the applicant is likely to  
15       sue. And this process bogs down the system and  
16       it keeps both state and Federal agency staff  
17       from doing their work. It bogs them down in  
18       defending their actions no matter what they do.

19              And I just -- it's a plea for us to  
20       somehow find a system, whether it be a point  
21       system that allows points for merit, for public  
22       need, for environmental compensation were there  
23       any negative impacts. We have to have some  
24       system that allows the project to go forward  
25       and no longer be contended and not in force.

1           Thank you very much.

2           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

3           (Applause)

4           MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 6. Card No. 6.

5           MR. LYTTON: Good morning. Mr. Secretary  
6 and panelists, thank you for being here today.  
7 My name is Gary Lytton. Last name is  
8 L-Y-T-T-O-N. I serve as the Director for the  
9 Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research  
10 Reserve. I work for the state of Florida at  
11 the Department of Environmental Protection. I  
12 have about 25 years of experience in coastal  
13 management of South Florida. About 20 years in  
14 the National Research Reserve System.

15           Mr. Secretary, I'm here to tell you that  
16 you will not find a better example of effective  
17 partnerships in managing the coast than the  
18 National Research Reserve System. In Florida  
19 we have three. And as Bob Ballard mentioned  
20 earlier, we have one in Apalachicola, one in  
21 St. Augustine, and one in Naples that I'm  
22 involved with.

23           I can tell you that NOAA plays an  
24 essential role in the partnership here in  
25 Florida and we are able to leverage resources



1           at the Federal and state level that we can also  
2           use to bring local partners in to do good work  
3           on the ground.

4           And I want to give you three examples of  
5           how we've been able to do that. One is that  
6           we've combined resources with NOAA state and  
7           local efforts to secure over \$60 million to buy  
8           over 20,000 acres of land in Collier County to  
9           incorporate in 110,000 acres of the National  
10          Research Reserve at Rookery Bay.

11          Now, this is one of the fastest growing  
12          counties in the nation. This is a population,  
13          Collier County, that we anticipate will triple  
14          in the next 20 to 25 years. So while we are  
15          investing money in buying lands in the research  
16          reserve, in turn natural resources within the  
17          boundary of the reserve do a tremendous benefit  
18          in terms of supporting the local economy. And  
19          in Collier County we are talking about boating  
20          and tourism that totals over a billion dollars  
21          a year, so there's a direct return on the  
22          investment that our partnership has made.

23          A second example is one I'm very excited  
24          about, I was talking to Ken Haddad about  
25          earlier. We recently established a partnership

1           in the marine enforcement community with marine  
2           officers who have now been stationed; 21  
3           officers in the Board of Fishing and Wildlife  
4           Commission have been stationed at Rookery Bay  
5           Research Reserve. But they have the ability to  
6           partner with local, state and Federal officers  
7           in Collier County. So in a sense we've got a  
8           coordinated re-enforcement effort in the  
9           county, and this becomes a very effective  
10          boater education and outreach tool. So we are  
11          reaching boaters. We are letting boaters know  
12          that it's a good idea to get involved in active  
13          stewardship of the coast.

14                 One example of a measure of success, I'm  
15          also very pleased to report, is that our  
16          boat-related deaths of manatees in Collier  
17          County have dropped dramatically in the last  
18          couple of years. This last year, one in  
19          Collier County. Collier County has been one of  
20          the leading counties in the state in the past.  
21          So we are reaching the boaters. And it's very  
22          important that we reach out and engage marine  
23          enforcement in an effort, and it's working in  
24          Collier County.

25                 The last example that I want to mention to

1           you is also one I'm very excited about. In 25  
2           years in coastal management I have never seen a  
3           level of cooperation, coordination that I've  
4           seen in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, which is a  
5           new partnership which has come together with  
6           the White House, thirteen Federal agencies, and  
7           five Gulf states and Mexico.

8                     Working together on behalf of the Gulf of  
9           Mexico, we actually --

10                    MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

11                    MR. LYTTON: Ran out of time. Okay.

12                    MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you.

13                    MR. LYTTON: Mr. Secretary, thank you for  
14           your support.

15                    (Applause)

16                    MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 7.

17                    MR. NEWMAN: How do you compress five  
18           minutes into two and a half? Very, very  
19           quickly.

20                    Good morning, distinguished panel,  
21           Mr. Secretary. My name is Andy Newman. I'm a  
22           Miami resident, but I have coordinated public  
23           relations for the Monroe County or Florida Keys  
24           and Key West Tourism Council for the past 25  
25           years.

1                   MS. LINNENBRINK: Can you spell your last  
2 name?

3                   MR. NEWMAN: N-E-W-M-A-N.

4                   MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you.

5                   MR. NEWMAN: Okay. I hope that's not  
6 included in my time.

7                   MS. LINNENBRINK: No, I don't start it  
8 until after you get done.

9                   MR. NEWMAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay.  
10 Here we go. The Keys, as I'm sure you're  
11 aware, is a tourism-based economy. Tourism  
12 directly and indirectly contributes about  
13 \$2.2 billion to the economy on an annual basis  
14 and employs more than half of our work force.

15                   The backbone obviously of the Keys tourism  
16 experience, Mr. Secretary, is based on the  
17 area's marine resources. We have more than  
18 about half of our 3.2 million visitors either  
19 snorkle, dive, sport fish or boat in and on  
20 sanctuary waters.

21                   There is a keen understanding among  
22 everyone in the Keys about the need to protect  
23 this special resource. A sanctuary has been a  
24 focal point for strategic partnerships with  
25 local, state and Federal organizations since

1           1990. The sanctuary officials have been very  
2           committed to listening to the concerns and  
3           issues of the public through the Sanctuary  
4           Advisory Council. In fact, one of our own  
5           Tourist Development Council members serves on  
6           the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

7           The Florida Keys Tourist Development  
8           Council has been so supportive of the Florida  
9           Keys National Marine Sanctuary concept, we have  
10          put our money where our mouths are. More than  
11          \$2 million have already been expended or  
12          allocated to fund artificial reef projects in  
13          the sanctuary to help take pressure off natural  
14          coral reefs. A grant of \$225,000 was allocated  
15          from the Tourist Development Council to help  
16          defray construction costs for the sanctuary  
17          soon to be opened, Dr. Nancy Foster Florida  
18          Keys Environment Complex.

19          The TDC has co-funded visitor research  
20          studies with NOAA's sanctuary. Our  
21          advertising, collateral materials, Web site  
22          market the Florida Keys National Marine  
23          Sanctuary name, and its conservation concepts.  
24          Our PR efforts quickly dovetail to support the  
25          sanctuary's own communications office.

1           A viable and healthy Florida Keys National  
2           Marine Sanctuary is crucial to maintaining  
3           economic stability in the Keys. The TDC and  
4           the tourism industry strongly ascribes to the  
5           sanctuary concept and supports both economic  
6           and natural resources sustainability.

7           Mr. Secretary, the Keys Tourism Industry  
8           trusts that you and the Department of Commerce  
9           will continue to provide the Florida Keys  
10          National Marine Sanctuary ample funding to  
11          protect this national treasure by allowing full  
12          implementation of so many research, law  
13          enforcement and educational activities required  
14          to ensure its success.

15          And I want to take my last 30 seconds to  
16          talk about something else. It's very near and  
17          dear to us all in Florida and throughout the  
18          coastal areas of the U.S., and that is the  
19          National Hurricane Warning Program.

20          The Hurricane Center and Max Mayfield  
21          truly needs more dollars for hurricane  
22          research, especially in terms of intensity  
23          forecasting. Several weeks ago, Hurricane  
24          Ernesto, which became Tropical Storm Ernesto,  
25          emerged off the coast of Cuba, was forecast to

1           become a Category 1 storm. We evacuated  
2           visitors, special need residents in the Keys.  
3           As it turned out, it was unnecessary. And even  
4           though it was during our slowest time period of  
5           the year, it suffered \$9 million in tourism  
6           related spending losses for the Keys for a  
7           five-day period. I would urge you to please  
8           examine that situation, too.

9           I thank you very much for coming to South  
10          Florida and for listening.

11          MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

12          (Applause)

13          MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 8. Card No. 8.

14          DR. VAUGHN: Good morning. I'm Dr. Dave  
15          Vaughan, V-A-U-G-H-A-N, and I'm the Executive  
16          Director for Mote's Tropical Research  
17          Laboratory located in Summerland Key, Florida.

18          I come here to actually praise you on such  
19          wonderful Cooperative Conservation efforts that  
20          we enjoy especially through NOAA's Florida Keys  
21          National Marine Sanctuary with Mr. Dan Basta  
22          and Dr. Billy Causey.

23          I'm going to list some of the cooperative  
24          programs that we enjoy with the sanctuary and  
25          show you how just some of those can make a big

1 difference in our coral reefs.

2 We run a tropical research center that  
3 bases its Coral Reef Research Center in the  
4 Keys as well as be able to provide other  
5 research centers from Mote Marine Lab in  
6 Sarasota, work with fisheries, aquaculture, red  
7 tag sharks and marine mammals, a place in a  
8 field station in the Keys. We also make our  
9 institution field station open to all other  
10 institutions, agencies and universities so they  
11 may also utilize that facility.

12 This wonderful relation started with a  
13 project funded by the National Marine Sanctuary  
14 Program called MEERA, a Marine Environmental  
15 Event Reporting Association. It's been going  
16 on for a number of years. It's basically a  
17 cooperative program between the government as  
18 well as private partnerships. Even though Mote  
19 Marine Lab is a public charity, it is a  
20 non-governmental not-for-profit.

21 We analyze and report and coordinate to  
22 all other agencies, some of these marine -- any  
23 marine event that takes place in the Keys.  
24 More recently we've started a program under  
25 funding from NOAA called Bleach Watch, which



1           was patterned after the Australian Great  
2           Barrier Reef Program to monitor using  
3           volunteers in the Keys, divers, commercial  
4           fishermen, to report and learn how to report  
5           bleaching of corals.

6                 We also work cooperatively with the  
7           Florida Reef Resilience Program, which was  
8           mentioned a couple of times earlier today, with  
9           a number of other agencies that was spearheaded  
10          by the Nature Conservancy, but also worked with  
  
11          the Sanctuary DEP, FWC and a number of other  
12          entities.

13                The last few programs in that list, we are  
14          doing work on coral aquaculture, coral disease,  
15          including work in the flower gardens, coral  
16          microbiology which shows that aqua flora  
17          palmata actually had a detrimental effect  
18          because of bleaching because of loss of  
19          antibiotics.

20                We do work with coral spawning,  
21          Telepresence Program in Little Key, and more  
22          recently invited to be a part of the Dr. Nancy  
23          Foster Eco-Discovery Center with our new  
24          1 million-dollar contribution of a living reef  
25          display showing the science and monitoring that

1 Mote does for the sanctuary in the Keys to help  
2 managers.

3 And last but not least, the Protect Our  
4 Reefs license plate, a state program which  
5 brings in over one-third of a million dollars  
6 for grants to other institutions doing work in  
7 the Keys, which we hope to be a  
8 1 million-dollar program that we hope can be  
9 matched by NOAA in the future.

10 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 9. Card No. 9.

13 Card No. 10.

14 Card No. 11.

15 Card No. 12.

16 MS. ESTENOZ: Good morning.

17 Mr. Secretary, distinguished members of the  
18 panel, representatives of the administration of  
19 the state, Dr. Brown.

20 My name is Shannon Estenoz, E-S-T-E-N-O-Z,  
21 and I am the Regional Director of Suncoast  
22 Region of the National Parks Conservation  
23 Association. Thank you for the opportunity to  
24 address you this morning.

25 NPCA is a leading voice for the protection

1 of the national parks for present and future  
2 generations and so my remarks today will focus  
3 on the National Park Service. We also look  
4 forward to greeting Secretary Kempthorne in  
5 Orlando in a couple of weeks for a similar  
6 session to present these ideas to him as well.

7 I'm going to focus on two issues.  
8 Although I could talk for an hour, I won't.  
9 Although on those two issues, funding and local  
10 government decisions, that I think both have  
11 tremendous bearing on the long-term health and  
12 well being of our national parks, but also for  
13 which Cooperative Conservation approaches have  
14 significant implications.

15 First, park funding. Funding for national  
16 parks is obviously critically important to  
17 protecting the resources, cultural resources,  
18 natural resources, historical resources that  
19 are captured in our national parks and  
20 protected by our national parks.

21 But adequate funding is also critically  
22 important to the communities that surround  
23 national parks. Adequate funding is important  
24 to the visitors, to the people who visit  
25 national parks, and ultimately to the children

1       who will inherit our national parks.

2               Communities that rely economically on  
3       national parks, gateway communities, are hurt  
4       when visitor centers close early, when visitors  
5       don't come at all or don't return because their  
6       experiences at national parks were not quality  
7       experiences, because resources, because  
8       staffing levels are low or facilities aren't  
9       adequately maintained. Right now our National  
10      Park System suffers from a 600 million-dollar  
11      annual critical funding shortfall.

12             The second issue I want to touch upon is  
13      local land use and infrastructure planning  
14      decisions by local governments and state  
15      governments. These decisions, which clearly  
16      naturally fall under the jurisdiction of local  
17      and state governments, have tremendous impact  
18      and implications for our national parks. These  
19      decisions would be better for all -- they are  
20      better for all when they are informed by an  
21      understanding of the impacts that they have on  
22      our national parks.

23             And in fact, decisions that are so  
24      informed often benefit from an analysis of  
25      alternatives, which is always a good thing,

1       alternatives that benefit natural resources,  
2       park resources and communities.

3               And so the national parks submits it's so  
4       important that the National Park System foster  
5       a culture that encourages its employees, its  
6       park managers, its scientists to engage in  
7       communities to form relationships. We are  
8       fortunate in South Florida because we have  
9       superintendents who really focus on this and  
10      work harder and are good at it. But it really  
11      needs to be a cultural shift in the park  
12      system.

13             Finally, the last point I want to make is  
14      just a point about sort of the natural limits  
15      of Cooperative Conservation, and that is that  
16      it's not always possible because agencies have  
17      legal mandates and have laws to implement. And  
18      so we want to be careful about not leaving the  
19      impression or implying that Cooperative  
20      Conservation is always possible. But when  
21      volunteer compliance and Cooperative  
22      Conservation isn't possible, stakeholders  
23      deserve certainty, they deserve decisiveness,  
24      and they deserve predictability.

25             And with that, I thank you for the

1 opportunity.

2 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 13. Card  
5 No. 13.

6 Card No. 14. Card No. 14. You're lucky  
7 No. 14.

8 MR. HEIMLICH: Thank you.

9 MS. LINNENBRINK: You're welcome.

10 MR. HEIMLICH: Good morning, ladies and  
11 gentlemen. My name is Barry Heimlich. I'm the  
12 Vice President of the Broward County Audubon  
13 Society, a volunteer organization with 1500  
14 members.

15 MS. LINNENBRINK: Can you spell your last  
16 name, please.

17 MR. HEIMLICH: It's H-E-I-M-L-I-C-H. Like  
18 the Heimlich Maneuver.

19 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you.

20 MR. HEIMLICH: I'm a chemical engineer and  
21 retired executive from the pharmaceutical and  
22 petroleum industries. I'm also the Director of  
23 the Smart Growth Partnership for Southeast  
24 Florida.

25 The dispute is over. Scientists

1       overwhelmingly agree that the greenhouse gasses  
2       cause global warming. And recent studies  
3       indicate that global warming is the primary  
4       reason why hurricanes have -- major hurricanes  
5       have doubled since 1970.

6               After the hurricane season of 2004 and  
7       '05, it's not surprising that South Florideans  
8       worry about a Category 3 or 4 storm. What you  
9       may not realize is how badly this fear is  
10      affecting Florida's economy today.

11             Commercial and residential real estate  
12      sales are plummeting because skyrocketing  
13      property insurance rates. Out-of-state  
14      businesses are questioning whether or not they  
15      can rely on Florida's suppliers. People in  
16      businesses from out of state hesitate to  
17      relocate to Florida, and some homeowners are  
18      being forced to sell and move away because they  
19      can't afford insurance premiums that have  
20      doubled in the last two years.

21             This map shows (indicating) what South  
22      Florida will -- South Florida will be swamped  
23      if sea levels rise by 3 feet by 2100 as  
24      projected; that includes all of Everglades  
25      National Park, the Florida Keys, the cities of

1 Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Naples. 7 million  
2 people live in this area. If Greenland ice  
3 sheets slide into the sea, everything on this  
4 map will be red.

5 Florida's in serious trouble and we need  
6 Washington's help, and nothing else that  
7 anybody's talked about here today matters if we  
8 don't deal with this problem. There is no  
9 longer time to make excuses and deny what is  
10 obvious. Global warming will never be reversed  
11 without American leadership. New policies are  
12 needed to set tough emission limits, enable  
13 trading of emissions credits, and incentivizing  
14 American industry to apply its technology and  
15 capital to developing carbon-free energy  
16 alternatively, such as the Safe Climate Act.

17 Our government must assert leadership with  
18 the nations of the world. China and India will  
19 not do their part unless America sets the  
20 example and takes the lead. It's not too late  
21 to sign the Kyoto treaty and we'll follow  
22 California's example.

23 Like the industrial and information  
24 revolutions, the energy revolution will lead to  
25 new prosperity for America. "Sometimes it



1 falls on a generation to be great," said Nelson  
2 Mandela last year. Please tell Mr. Bush that  
3 this is his opportunity to be great.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 15. Card  
8 No. 15.

9 MS. BAUMBACH-REARDON: Hi. My name is  
10 Lisa Baumbach, B-A-U-M-B-A-C-H, Reardon,  
11 R-E-A-R-D-O-N. I also represent Broward County  
12 Audubon Society, which is a volunteer  
13 organization, Plantation, Florida.

14 Secretary Gutierrez, distinguished panel  
15 and audience members. I come before you today  
16 wearing several hats. I come here as a  
17 concerned citizen, as an environmental leader,  
18 as a scientist, as a mother, and most  
19 importantly, I come here as an American who  
20 loves very dearly this country and all its  
21 beauty and natural resources.

22 In the very short time that I have here  
23 today, I want to address several key  
24 environmental issues that face our great  
25 country. It is these concerns that not only

1       greatly impact the entire United States, but  
2       also our state and South Florida.

3               The Endangered Species Act and Cooperative  
4       Conservation. For over 30 years, the  
5       Endangered Species Act, ESA, has been a safety  
6       net for wildlife on the brink of extinction.  
7       The ESA has prevented extinction from  
8       99 percent of those listed as endangered or  
9       threatened, including the American Bald Eagle,  
10      Gray Wolf and Salmon. 68 percent of species  
11      listed are stable and improving.

12             The ESA is highly relevant to our state.  
13      Our state has 117 animals and species on the  
14      endangered species list, the third largest in  
15      the entire country. We have seen great success  
16      stories in species found in our state, such as  
17      the American Bald Eagle and the American  
18      Alligator. Other species are not so lucky,  
19      like the Florida Panther, the Wood Stork,  
20      Manatees and the Florida Scrub Jay.

21             Stringent laws need to remain in effect to  
22      protect their habitat if there's any hope for  
23      species recovery. Cooperative Conservation,  
24      though important, only works because of the  
25      ESA's strong regulatory requirements which give

1       the public assurance that species will not go  
2       extinct. The ESA should be strengthened, not  
3       weakened or shortchanged. Full funding for  
4       consultation, Cooperative Conservation programs  
5       are needed.

6             The Clean Water Act. Again, for almost 30  
7       years, the Clean Water Act was designed to keep  
8       the waters of our nation clean and empowered,  
9       the EPA to enforce its provisions. Exempting  
10      the EPA or other agencies from the very law  
11      they are charged with is very troubling.

12            Presently the law requires permits to  
13      ensure that water transfers do not create  
14      problems. This protection must not be erased.  
15      Florida's waters will directly be impacted if  
16      the Water Transfer Rule is adopted. The  
17      proposal will effectively eliminate any  
18      restrictions or permits regulating water  
19      transfers from polluted lakes to drinking water  
20      sources.

21            In summary, the ESA, the Clean Water Act  
22      and EPA were landmark legislations when they  
23      passed. And last but not least, the Federal  
24      Government must uphold its bargain to restore  
25      the conservation of the Everglades.

1           Thank you.

2           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

3           (Applause)

4           MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 16.

5           MR. SWART: My name is Peter Swart,  
6           S-W-A-R-T. I'm a faculty member here at the  
7           Rosenstiel School, but I'm appearing before you  
8           as a representative of the local organizing  
9           committee for the 11th International Coral Reef  
10          Symposium. I want to make the committee aware  
11          of the great potential this meeting has to  
12          increase the awareness of coral reef issues  
13          both locally, globally and nationally.

14          This meeting will be held in the United  
15          States in 2008 between the 7th and 11th of  
16          July, specifically in Fort Lauderdale. Now,  
17          this event is significant for a number of  
18          reasons. First, it will be the 11th meeting.  
19          The first one was held in 1969 in India. These  
20          meetings are held every four years. The last  
21          time a meeting was held in the United States  
22          was in 1977 at the University of Miami. And  
23          this will be the first time the meeting is held  
24          in the Atlantic region since 1996 when it was  
25          held in Panama.

1           This meeting will provide an opportunity  
2           for coral reef workers from scientific and  
3           nonscientific sources from the entire world and  
4           specifically will help the participants from  
5           North and South America and the Caribbean  
6           region.

7           The meeting will be important for South  
8           Florida for a number of reasons. The study in  
9           2001 showed that 28 million persons  
10          participated in the reefs per year. And in  
11          Broward County alone, the impact on the economy  
12          was \$2 billion and \$53 billion statewide. We  
13          expect this meeting to showcase not only the  
14          natural beauty and ecological diversity of  
15          coral reefs but also the dangers which face  
16          them, including pollution, overutilization,  
17          global warming and increase in fossil fuels and  
18          also in ocean acidification, to name a few.

19          The state of Florida and NOAA have started  
20          to make progress fulfilling their financial  
21          pledges towards the organizational costs of  
22          this meeting. We need your assistance in  
23          calling on other agencies to join the  
24          Department of Commerce to continue this effort  
25          so that the United States conference will be a

1           resounding success.

2           Thank you.

3           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

4           (Applause)

5           MS. LINNENBRINK: Card No. 17. Card

6           No. 17.

7           Card No. 18. Are you 17, sir, or 18?

8           MR. MILLER: Eighteen.

9           MS. LINNENBRINK: Eighteen. Okay.

10          MR. MILLER: Good morning, everybody, and  
11          welcome, Secretary. My name is Harry Miller.  
12          I've been here since '49. I have seen this  
13          place grow through good and bad. Let me bring  
14          out one statement here.

15          This United States was one of the  
16          healthiest countries in the nation, in the  
17          world, No. 1 and No. 2. In 1960 it went up  
18          into the 80s. And now we are reaching 91 and  
19          92 of the 93 nations in this world,  
20          unhealthiest. We have so much pollutants in  
21          this world. In this nation here, ours, from  
22          1940 we have produced some 40 million chemicals  
23          and synthetic materials that our bodies will  
24          not accept.

25          Waters are polluted. We thought it was

1           just around the coastal lines. No. They are  
2           polluted with toxic metals all around in the  
3           oceans. Our farmlands are polluted. And not  
4           only that, our United States is allowing fruits  
5           and vegetables to arrive from other countries  
6           using chemicals that we are not even allowed to  
7           use here in the United States.

8           Please, Mr. Secretary, I just came from a  
9           meeting last night from the tropical fruit,  
10          which I sit on the board for a few years, and  
11          we are concerned. We are losing our farm here.  
12          Our farmers are not interested anymore. We  
13          have competition. We can't sell our product.  
14          We have oranges up in the northern part of the  
15          state. We can't find employees to work. We  
16          can't pick that fruit. It's all laying on the  
17          ground. So please, help us. Clean up this  
18          country and the world from the pollutants that  
19          we ourselves have fabricated.

20          I have no more to say. And again, I thank  
21          you as an individual, probably not too many  
22          more years here. I'm almost 70. To see if I  
23          have any grandchildren, I hope they succeed.

24          Thank you. I'll cut it short.

25          (Applause)

1 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

2 Card No. 18. Card No. 18.

3 MR. NELSON: Good morning, Mr. Secretary,  
4 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Howard  
5 Nelson. I'm a senior partner with the law firm  
6 of Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod in  
7 Miami, Florida. I'm here this morning on  
8 behalf of the Builders Association of South  
9 Florida, the local affiliate of the National  
10 Association of Home Builders.

11 Cooperative Conservation as we understand  
12 it is not only a remarkable goal, it is perhaps  
13 the only way for all parties in the  
14 environmental resource field to move forward.  
15 But in order for it to work, it needs  
16 incentives to all parties, to resource  
17 agencies, regulatory agencies, environmental  
18 advocacy groups, private property owners and  
19 builders.

20 We firmly believe that this type of  
21 cooperation and incentive can only happen  
22 through substantial regulatory change to both  
23 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the  
24 Endangered Species Act. And the types of  
25 regulatory changes that we are talking about



1       are time frames. Time frames for entry and  
2       exit into the process. Delegation of  
3       repetitive programs to well-situated state and  
4       local agencies.

5               Mr. Secretary, you sit on the dais with  
6       the Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department  
7       of Environmental Protection, a fantastic  
8       environmental regulatory agency. We need to  
9       look at ways to delegate through problematic  
10      general permits, through other types of  
11      permitting procedures, those types of small  
12      projects so that the Federal regulatory  
13      agencies within a time frame can concentrate on  
14      larger, more important issues.

15             We also believe that it takes change in  
16      both the guidance policy of what are federally  
17      jurisdictional wetlands and resource areas as  
18      well as time frames for the consultation  
19      process.

20             In many cases valuable opportunities for  
21      Cooperative Conservation are lost by the  
22      failure of resource agencies to enter into the  
23      consultation process, or more importantly to  
24      exit out of the consultation process, thereby  
25      passing by opportunities.

1           Again, these similar regulatory changes  
2           need to be made in the Endangered Species Act.  
3           We would ask that you look at the time frames  
4           in both of those acts, the Clean Water Act 404,  
5           the Endangered Species Act, and that the  
6           administration come up with a comprehensive  
7           package to include not only Cooperative  
8           Conservation but regulatory reform.

9           Thank you for your time.

10          (Applause)

11          MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

12          Card No. 20.

13          MR. SWAKON: Good morning, Mr. Secretary,  
14          members of the panel, audience. My name is Ed  
15          Swakon, S-W-A-K-O-N. I'm the President of EAS  
16          Engineering, a local environmental engineering  
17          firm specializing in wetland regulatory  
18          permitting law, and we have been doing that for  
19          the last 30 years. And I'm going to speak to  
20          you just very briefly about the process and why  
21          I believe that process is broken.

22          First, I think you'll notice by the  
23          representatives here in the audience that the  
24          distribution that may be noticed for this  
25          meeting was not as widely distributed to the

1 regulated community as it might have been. My  
2 speculation is that there are probably only a  
3 handful of people who are actually regulated by  
4 the agencies that are here today, and most of  
5 the other people seem to be governmental or  
6 NGOs.

7 I've had the opportunity to represent an  
8 individual property owner in South Miami-Dade  
9 County who has owned over 8,000 acres of land  
10 that is located in the footprint of two CERP  
11 projects, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration  
12 Projects. To date 75 percent of that land has  
13 been placed in conservation, yet the opposition  
14 to the meaningful utilization of the remaining  
15 portion of that land is fierce. It's fierce  
16 from the NGOs. It's fierce from the regulated  
17 community. It's fierce from the local  
18 government.

19 Cooperation and Cooperative Conservation  
20 seems to be missing. There needs to be a  
21 recognition of private property. If this  
22 process is to work, there needs to be an  
23 understanding that private property owners need  
24 to be able to utilize their property in some  
25 way, shape or form. It's not an all or nothing

1           proposition.

2                   I've had the opportunity to work with many  
3           of the staff at your various agencies, and for  
4           the most part I have no qualms with them. They  
5           are very diligent, well-meaning individuals.  
6           The process, however, that they are  
7           implementing is broken. The time frames  
8           associated with the reviews is untenable in  
9           most cases, and in a lot of cases it doesn't  
10          exist.

11                  And most importantly, I think the agency  
12          to which a number of you respond in the  
13          regulatory climate, the Corps of Engineers, and  
14          the process by which they implement and take in  
15          your consideration needs serious overhaul.  
16          That agency is suffering. The processing of  
17          permits today is very time consuming. They are  
18          burdened by a lack of staff. And most  
19          importantly, and this is a cultural thing that  
20          I am not sure how it gets fixed, I believe they  
21          lack the will of cooperation.

22                  Thank you.

23                  MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

24                  (Applause)

25                  MS. LINNENBRINK: At this time,

1       Mr. Secretary needs to leave. However,  
2       Dr. Crabtree and Mr. Basta will remain on the  
3       panel to represent the Department of Commerce.  
4       The other panel members will also remain on  
5       stage.

6               At this time I would like to invite  
7       Mr. Secretary to the podium to provide any  
8       closing remarks that he may have.

9               SECRETARY GUTIERREZ: I want to thank all  
10       of you for your candid input and your interest  
11       in the subject and your willingness to serve  
12       and spend your time on something that clearly  
13       interests all of us. I think that is the key  
14       point driving Cooperative Conservation, is the  
15       knowledge that we are all in this together. We  
16       are all interested.

17              There was a time when it was felt some  
18       years ago in our country that you had to choose  
19       between environmental stewardship and economic  
20       growth. And we believe, and President Bush has  
21       been very vocal about this, that that is a  
22       false choice, that we have to do both, that  
23       both are important, and that we have to achieve  
24       both.

25              And we believe that Cooperative

1 Conservation is a way to bring everyone's input  
2 with the knowledge that we all want the same  
3 thing. We all want our environment to be safe  
4 and clean, and the type of environment that we  
5 want to pass on, as someone said, to our  
6 grandchildren in all areas, whether it be  
7 national parks or our marine sanctuaries, our  
8 fisheries, et cetera. Every part of our  
9 environment.

10 But we also want an economy that's  
11 growing, we want to create jobs, we want  
12 vitality, and we can do both. It is a false  
13 choice, and we should not accept to be put on  
14 one side of the argument or the other. And I  
15 think that today it demonstrates to me that we  
16 can all come together to achieve those two  
17 goals.

18 And from my standpoint, I can assure you  
19 that all of your points will be heard, will be  
20 considered, and that's what this process is all  
21 about. And our commitment to you is that  
22 nothing said today will not be considered and  
23 it will all be part of the process.

24 So thank you for participating. Thank you  
25 for your leadership. And I look forward to

1           working with you. Thank you.

2                   (Applause)

3                   MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you,  
4           Mr. Secretary.

5                   At this time, we are going to take a 15  
6           minute break. It is 11:46. We will reconvene  
7           at 12:05. Mr. Secretary will be here for a few  
8           minutes out there. If you would like to shake  
9           his hand, ask him a few questions before he  
10          leaves, you are more than welcome to.

11                  There is also a cafeteria at the school if  
12          you would like to eat there. It's through  
13          those double glass doors by the registration  
14          table, all the way to the end on the right.

15                  Also I would like to make an announcement.  
16          The NBF Faculty Seminar Series presents  
17          Dr. John McManus, Science for Coral Reef  
18          Management Under Climate Change, is today from  
19          1:00 to 2:00 in the SLAB seminar room 103 if  
20          you would like to participate in that after  
21          this session closes.

22                  Again, we will reconvene at 12:04 --  
23          12:05, excuse me, and we will start with card  
24          No. 22, I believe.

25                  Thank you for coming.

1           (Thereupon, a recess was taken, after  
2           which the following proceedings were held:)

3           MS. LINNENBRINK: We are going to get the  
4           session started right now. If everybody could  
5           please take their seats.

6           I apologize that Mr. Secretary had to  
7           leave before the session ended, however I did  
8           want to recognize his Special Assistant, Chris  
9           Scheve. He is here and reports to the  
10          Secretary every day, and he will be taking  
11          notes and will pass those on to the Secretary  
12          when he returns back to DC.

13          At this time I would like to call down  
14          card No. 21. Twenty-one.

15          MS. CLARK: Thank you. Stephanie Clark,  
16          C-L-A-R-K, from Coral Springs, Florida, with  
17          the group Cry of the Water. What can the  
18          Federal Government do to enhance wildlife and  
19          clean air protection? Enforce the laws that  
20          are already right on the books. Cry of the  
21          Water, an NGO member of the Southeast Florida  
22          Coral Reef Initiative, along with stakeholders,  
23          have identified compliance as a very important  
24          project.

25          For over 30 years the Endangered Species



1       Act has been the safety net for wildlife on the  
2       brink of extinction. While the ESA has some  
3       problems, mostly agencies don't enforce it  
4       enough. There is a movement to get rid of the  
5       Endangered Species Act as we know it.

6               I'm in favor of voluntary action, but not  
7       if Cooperative Conservation makes the ESA  
8       voluntary rather than mandatory. Enforcement  
9       of the Clean Water Act and the ESA should be  
10      strengthened. Voluntary cooperative --  
11      cooperation has helped -- has not helped with  
12      the discharge of millions of gallons a day of  
13      partially treated sewage onto our reefs, dirty  
14      discharge from the lake to our conservation  
15      areas, then to tie to our reefs.

16             Loss of hundreds of acres of reef  
17      including threatened staghorn and elkhorn coral  
18      from dredging actions, closing of beaches from  
19      pollution and sewage in Southeast Florida.  
20      Southeast Florida reefs have no comprehensive  
21      water quality monitoring program.

22             With the rapid decline of our coral reefs  
23      in Broward County, I hope we still have our  
24      fields of staghorn coral and our reefs when the  
25      Coral Reef Symposium comes to Broward in 2007.

1 Without strong laws to protect our reefs, ocean  
2 water quality and air quality, Southeast  
3 Florida will become just another hot,  
4 overcrowded place.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

8 Card No. 22.

9 MR. CLARK: Yes. My name is Daniel Clark.  
10 I'm the Director of Cry of the Water.  
11 Stephanie stole part of what I had here. We  
12 didn't cooperate when we wrote things down.  
13 But I want to talk to you about Broward County  
14 reefs. Broward County is the next county north  
15 of here, for some of you on the panel who  
16 aren't from here. It's the Fort Lauderdale  
17 area.

18 We have probably some of the most  
19 extensive near-reefs left anywhere in the  
20 country. It's one of the only places where you  
21 can get a snorkel and a dive flag and just swim  
22 right off the beach in Fort Lauderdale and see  
23 fields of staghorn coral, see single coral  
24 heads the size of automobiles that have been  
25 there for hundreds of years. It truly is some

1 of Florida's most outstanding coral waters and  
2 it truly is a unique place. I've been diving  
3 there since the '70s.

4 I've seen dramatic declines in the  
5 resources there, and Stephanie just listed a  
6 number of things that are impacting the reefs.  
7 Once again, the sewer outfalls. And we really  
8 believe there needs to be more compliance with  
9 the existing rules that we have. Also the  
10 effect by water being discharged from the lake  
11 and agricultural areas, this has added to the  
12 list of other things that are impacting reefs  
13 worldwide, such as bleaching and diseases and  
14 all those things. The cumulative impacts are  
15 taking a drastic toll in those areas.

16 Cry of the Water has an application in for  
17 outstanding Florida waters for this resource up  
18 there, for the Broward reefs and the fields of  
19 staghorn that I was talking about, for over  
20 three years. We were shocked recently in this  
21 past month to talk to attorneys from DEP to  
22 find out that that application was never  
23 processed and forwarded to the board for review  
24 or approval or disapproval, whatever it may be.  
25 We were told, quote, unquote, the policy makers

1           decided not to process your application.

2           We would like to know who those policy  
3           makers are. We are told there was somebody in  
4           Tallahassee, but we aren't quite sure who. The  
  
5           loss of these reefs will have a cascading  
6           impact on fisheries and reefs all over and up  
7           and down the coast and the islands as well, as  
8           some of the scientists here have talked to you  
9           about.

10          It's time to take a common sense approach  
11          to renew resource management here in Southeast  
12          Florida. I have three recommendations of  
13          things we can do. We can enforce the existing  
14          rules and quit spending so much time rewriting  
15          loopholes with the ones that exist. We can  
16          fund the agencies so they can properly conduct  
17          oversight and enforcement of the existing  
18          rules. And we can also ask that the  
19          politicians stop from interfering with the  
20          regulatory process.

21          Thank you.

22          (Applause)

23          MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

24          Card No. 23. Card No. 23.

25          Card No. 24.

1           MS. LEE: Hello. My name is Nancy Lee,  
2           L-E-E, and I'm from Miami. I just wanted you  
3           to be aware that in Cooperative Conservation  
4           agreements we often have wolves guarding the  
5           hen house. I believe here in Florida we have a  
6           developer lobbyist heading the official  
7           wildlife commission that recently authorized  
8           the downlisting of endangered species  
9           protection.

10           And I was on a public government group in  
11           Key Biscayne, a state park. Soccer moms wanted  
12           to put soccer fields in a passive park which  
13           has much conservation. And the implications  
14           would have been statewide to change -- to have  
15           fields in state parks.

16           And the government has the obligation to  
17           be proper stewards of our resources. These  
18           soccer moms had a short term goal. And, you  
19           know, I can just see them after their kids grow  
20           out of school, oh, we have nowhere to go for a  
21           walk in natural areas, so I know it happens.  
22           People change their priorities. So the  
23           government has to be the steward for the  
24           generations to come and not bow to the short  
25           term wishes of stakeholders and that's what's

1           going on here. The short term wishes of  
2           stakeholders all over Florida are ruling the  
3           roost.

4           One of the problems also that I wanted to  
5           bring up is Dr. Brown from NOAA has spent  
6           epochs and water and male fish are feminizing  
7           in the St. Lucie Estuary. And we have mercury  
8           problems in all our fish.

9           The government has to be the steward. You  
10          can't expect developers to just turn around and  
11          say, oh, yes, let's protect this. You know,  
12          they have money. And of course the guy that  
13          left, who depressed me immensely, we have to  
14          balance economics with conservation; that's an  
15          oxymoron. We can't do that. You guys are not  
16          supposed to be doing that. You are supposed to  
17          be protecting our environment for the children  
18          and the grandchildren and the generations to  
19          come.

20          Like the people had the foresight in  
21          Central Park to protect the park for the future  
22          of generations, and that's what you should be  
23          doing, not balancing economic growth.

24                 (Applause)

25          MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

1           Card No. 25. If it's easier -- you can  
2           hold it if it's easier for you.

3           MR. BENNIS: Sure. Good afternoon,  
4           distinguished members of the panel. My name is  
5           Jason Bennis, B, as in boy, E-N-N-I-S. I'm the  
6           Marine Program Manager for the National Parks  
7           Conservation Association, and I'm based here in  
8           Hollywood, Florida in our regional office.

9           As you heard, NPCA is a leading voice in  
10          protecting and enhancing our National Park  
11          System for both present and future generations.  
12          I would like to extend our thanks based on NPCA  
13          to all of you on the panel as well as the  
14          Secretaries of Commerce, Agriculture, Interior,  
15          as well as the Administrator of the EPA,  
16          Chairman of CEQ for taking the time to talk to  
17          stakeholders about Cooperative Conservation.  
18          As we all know, listening is often the first  
19          step towards successful partnerships.

20          Just outside this auditorium are the  
21          beautiful waters of Biscayne Bay and Biscayne  
22          National Park. Unfortunately, as is the case  
23          with many of our marine ecosystems today, the  
24          health of these local waters is strained by  
25          pollution, allergy blooms, sea grass scarring,

1 reef decline, and fisheries collapse.

2 In fact, in one of our NPCA's recent  
3 reports, State of the Park Report on Biscayne  
4 National Park, the national park's own natural  
5 resources were rated as poor condition, only  
6 scoring 58 out of 100. So I think it's safe to  
7 say that our marine environment is in desperate  
8 need of Cooperative Conservation.

9 Cooperative Conservation could go a long  
10 way towards strengthening ocean governance and  
11 improving the coordination between the state  
12 and Federal agencies. In Florida alone, there  
13 are marine programs scattered throughout three  
14 state agencies, five water management  
15 districts, regional planning councils, Florida  
16 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and  
17 dozens of municipal and county governments.

18 As you also know, the Federal level is  
19 quite overwhelming with multiple agencies,  
20 Federal fisheries, management councils, task  
21 forces and commissions. A coordinated office  
22 that's solely dedicated to ocean and coastal  
23 policy would make for better information  
24 gathering and better decision making at both  
25 the Federal, state and local levels.



1           However, to make a positive difference, it  
2           will take more than just organizational  
3           restructuring and cooperation. It's going to  
4           take strong leadership and implementation of  
5           strategic marine plans, including the Park  
6           Services Ocean Stewardship Strategy, the U.S.  
7           Commission on Ocean Policy Report, and a Pew  
8           Oceans Commission Report.

9           With the 10th anniversary of the  
10          International Year of the Oceans and the 100th  
11          birthday of the National Park System quickly  
12          approaching, what better time than now to lead  
13          a coordinated effort to heal our ocean  
14          ecosystem.

15          Thank you very much.

16          (Applause)

17          MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

18          Card No. 26. Card No. 26.

19          Card No. 27. You can hold that if you  
20          like.

21          MR. FARAGO: Yeah. My name is Alan  
22          Farago, F-A-R-A-G-O, and I'm here speaking as  
23          an individual. I live in Coral Gables.

24          About 15 years ago I spent three years  
25          working with NOAA to listen to the people of

1       the Florida Keys and during the formation  
2       stages of the National Marine Sanctuary. Ever  
3       since that time, I've been involved one way or  
4       another in the tension between economic growth  
5       and protecting the environmental resources of  
6       Florida.

7               Thank you all for being here to listen to  
8       us. I'd like to just make a very simple point.  
9       If you all stay to the issue of shifting  
10      baselines in our environment, if you all stay  
11      to the point of how to prevent the baselines  
12      from continuing to shift, I think that's the  
13      right way to guide your work now and in the  
14      future.

15             The way to do that begins with strong  
16      Federal laws. The Endangered Species Act,  
17      NEPA, the Clean Water Act, these are all  
18      principal foundations not just of the  
19      environmental movement but of an attempt to  
20      keep baselines from shifting even further than  
21      they have.

22             I'm sure as you go around the country,  
23      you're hearing from economic stakeholders  
24      everywhere with the same complaint, that we  
25      need economic growth and we have to -- we have

1 to respect private property rights. We've been  
2 through all of that here in South Florida. The  
3 fact that our national parks are so close to  
4 millions of people in this state makes us  
5 really the epitome of all of these issues that  
6 you're probably facing elsewhere.

7 But I urge you, you know, not to give up  
8 on the strong Federal role because as a nation,  
9 we have an obligation to future generations.  
10 Mitigation has had very limited success.  
11 Delegation has not worked in the case in  
12 Florida, in the case of water quality. In many  
13 instances with water quality, we need much  
14 stronger laws and much stronger enforcement  
15 than we have today.

16 So thank you again for coming to Miami,  
17 Dade County, and please keep your eye on the  
18 shifting baselines. Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

21 Card No. 28. Card No. 28.

22 Card No. 29.

23 MS. YODER-SWAIM: Hello. My name is  
24 Louise Yoder-Swaim, Y-O-D-E-R, S-W-A-I-M from  
25 Naples, Florida. And I'm the President of the

1 Friends of Rookery Bay, the nonprofit arm of  
2 the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research  
3 Reserve, and I'm a constituent volunteer. And  
4 what I'm here to do is simply to endorse the  
5 efforts of partnering, because we see that from  
6 our perspective as we work with Rookery Bay in  
7 the various things that we try to do with  
8 funding and other collaborative initiatives  
9 with some of our state, Federal and local  
10 agencies, we enjoy good relationships even as a  
11 fringe group with various departments of NOAA,  
12 Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture,  
13 DEP for sure and so forth. And what we really  
14 want to do is support and extend some of the  
15 efforts from the partnering efforts that are  
16 going on now at more of a grassroots level.

17 One of the things that we do find to be  
18 very successful from our perspective is to take  
19 information and set up educational  
20 opportunities for students and adults in our  
21 area. Collier County, as you already know, is  
22 a very, very, fast growing area and we take  
23 this responsibility of educating both students  
24 and adults very seriously.

25 We are collaborating now with our public

1 schools to provide other venues for students to  
2 learn more about marine science, conservation  
3 and environmental work, and at the same time we  
4 are looking to balance that with working with  
5 our economic development councils and the like  
6 so that we can be sure there are jobs for these  
7 students if they are interested. So to point  
8 to some of the partnering efforts and some of  
9 the programs for coastal management and  
10 stewardship, this is a good way to pull in some  
11 of those kinds of educational efforts.

12 We are also working with regard to  
13 extending some more support for the research  
14 efforts for the coastal management and projects  
15 in our area. And also we have, I think, a  
16 pretty good program, Gary Lytton is very good  
17 at this, and we like to support it, and that is  
18 to help to educate our local builders and  
19 developers in terms of how they should be  
20 building and developing if they get permits in  
21 our area so that if they are selling property  
22 to say you have a beautiful view, that the  
23 beautiful view stays there for years to come,  
24 and that they might learn some new techniques  
25 in their construction and so forth.

1           We also support the GOMA or the Gulf of  
2 Mexico Alliance initiative as much as we can,  
3 and we are promoting also other ideas that will  
4 continue to support some of the economic things  
5 in our area.

6           So we do appreciate your support but we do  
7 look at partnering as very important in the  
8 stewardship and management of our conservation  
9 efforts.

10          Thank you.

11          (Applause)

12          MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

13          Card No. 30.

14          MR. SWAIM: Good morning, Deputy Secretary  
15 Ballard, distinguished panel, ladies and  
16 gentlemen. Thank you for the opportunity. My  
17 name is Ronald Swaim, S-W-A-I-M. I'm here  
18 representing the Volunteers of Rookery Bay.

19          The volunteers of Rookery Bay contribute a  
20 large amount of effort in helping the mission  
21 of Rookery Bay. They contribute more than  
22 \$8,900 annually in that type of work. We have  
23 all types of people that can do -- that come  
24 from many walks of life, that can help in many  
25 ways at the reserve.

1           I, myself, have been with the reserve for  
2           nine years, contributing over 10,800 hours of  
3           my time there. I also volunteer at other  
4           places, such as the United States Air Force  
5           Auxillary, Civil Air Patrol, the Department of  
6           Agriculture, Southwest Conservancy, and doing  
7           many things in that area. But right now my  
8           thoughts are and my missions are with the  
9           Rookery Bay.

10           I have done overflights. I fly the  
11           manager around to look at the reserve after  
12           hurricanes or just to evaluate the reserve if  
13           we get a frost or something happens to the  
14           brook out there. I help with doing trails,  
15           aquatic trails, wetland restoration projects  
16           and community outreach, just to name a few of  
17           the things that I've done, but all our  
18           volunteers do that.

19           And so my thoughts here are that thank you  
20           for supporting organizations like the Friends  
21           of Rookery Bay because they do help with a  
22           large resource that's easy to manage and, in  
23           other words, it doesn't take anybody to  
24           supervise it very much, and they learn fast and  
25           we have a great group there.

1           So we appreciate your support for that  
2           type of organization and all the organizations  
3           because it's a great resource that you can't  
4           get anywhere else.

5           Thank you.

6           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

7           Card No. 31.

8           Card No. 32.

9           Card No. 33.

10          MS. TROTTA: Good afternoon. My name is  
11          Kristina Trotta, K-R-I-S-T-I-N-A, T-R-O-T-T-A.  
12          I'm with the Sierra Club, the nations oldest,  
13          largest and most respected environmental  
14          organization. I would like to make some short  
15          comments about a project that could exemplify  
16          Cooperative Conservation, building the  
17          Everglades Skyway.

18          This bridge, if built, will span 11 miles  
19          over the current Tamiami Trail, which would  
20          allow for natural water flows to be restored,  
21          rehydrating the northeast portion of Everglades  
22          National Park and allow fresh water that is so  
23          vital to Florida Bay to actually reach it.

24          The skyway project has already captured  
25          the imagination and support of local



1       municipalities, groups that represent business,  
2       and groups that represent tourism interests, as  
3       well as many conservation groups, all in the  
4       name of cooperation for a project that would  
5       benefit our environment, our economy, and our  
6       communities.

7               However, in order to see this project done  
8       correctly, it is so essential to the  
9       restoration of the Everglades, we need the  
10      support of the state and the Federal  
11      government. So I urge you to look at this  
12      project and give it the support and funding  
13      that it needs to be done correctly.

14             Thank you.

15             (Applause)

16             MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

17             Card No. 34.

18             Card No. 35.

19             Card No. 36.

20             MR. EHRHARDT: Good afternoon. My name is  
21      Nelson Ehrhardt, E-H-R-H-A-R-D-T. I'm a  
22      faculty member here at the Rosenstiel School.  
23      And I would like to bring to your attention the  
24      fact that 60 percent of the seafood that we  
25      consume in the United States is imported at the

1 value -- a port value of about \$12 billion,  
2 that once it reaches our tables is about  
3 \$40 billion a year.

4 Unfortunately, the U.S. companies involved  
5 in this business are truly wiping out the  
6 resources of foreign countries. Fisheries in  
7 countries other than the United States are not  
8 sustainable in the way they are being exploited  
9 and we should be acting more responsibly  
10 regarding these resources.

11 The Federal government gave us through the  
12 University of Miami a small grant of \$60,000  
13 last year to study the impact of lobster  
14 fishing in the Caribbean and we discovered two  
15 very significant issues.

16 One, 40 percent of the lobsters being  
17 exploited are undersized lobsters and a huge  
18 black market has been created in the Caribbean  
19 to sell these undersized lobster. This is  
20 impacting the overall lobster populations in  
21 the Caribbean and is obviously impacting our  
22 fisheries here in Florida.

23 Secondly, 30 percent of the divers in the  
24 lobster fisheries are dying or permanently  
25 impaired thanks to the exploitation of these

1 resources. We believe that the Cooperative  
2 Conservation Agreement has to come from the  
3 Federal government so we can continue doing  
4 this type of work so that countries, the  
5 foreign countries that are counting on free  
6 trade agreements with the U.S., can truly abide  
7 by the laws of conservation in their own  
8 fishery.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

12 Card No. 37. If it's easier for you, you  
13 can hold it.

14 MR. DENNINGER: Yeah. Frank Denninger  
15 with the Everglades Coordinating Council. And  
16 the name is D, as in David, E-N-N-I-N-G-E-R.

17 I'm kind of here today to try to explain.  
18 I guess there's a narrow window for like I'm  
19 speaking as an individual here, but just  
20 letting you know I work with organizations  
21 aside from just the one I mentioned.

22 And what's come to light with us here  
23 regarding Everglades Restoration Comprehensive,  
24 CERP, Project is that occasionally state  
25 sovereignty can be threatened in our perception

1       by this project and all recreation through  
2       traditional cultural communities and stuff down  
3       here.

4               Here I've got a document, the Framework  
5       Agreement of 1996, which basically turned over  
6       veto power in the first Everglades Restoration  
7       Project, Picayune Strand, to the Army and the  
8       Department of Interior. And as a result of  
9       that, we believe a lot of human use was ejected  
10      out of that area immediately as it became --  
11      started to emerge as the first CERP project.  
12      In fact, the Florida Division of Forestry was  
13      stuck out front as the managing agency, which I  
14      don't believe they are for a minute.

15             And they tried to do a plan a little while  
16      ago, a draft plan, that used 108 millionths of  
17      the land, 7.45 acres with a 12-mile OAP prep.  
18      And the comments to that plan by the U.S. Fish  
19      and Wildlife Service in part was that this is  
20      one example of inconsistency with Everglades  
21      restoration. Okay. And the Corps of  
22      Engineers' comment to the same project was:  
23      Far too intrusive and is in our opinion  
24      incompatible with resource-based or passive  
25      recreational use envisioned by the enabling

1       legislation for the Picayune Strand Restoration  
2       Project. That's not Cooperative Conservation  
3       in my mind. And neither is it in the mind of  
4       Collier County citizens who got ejected mainly  
5       out of that area. And there's meetings this  
6       week and a lot of meetings about that right  
7       now.

8               But in essence, it's causing a backlash.  
9       People like myself, other people I work with  
10      like, you know, Mr. Haddad, we met a few times,  
11      we don't want to be against conservation. But  
12      it looks like conservation is against public  
13      use of public land or what's perceived to be  
14      public land.

15             So if Everglades restoration means all the  
16      lands are going to be involved federally, and  
17      all decisions will be made federally, and we  
18      have to go to the Federal Government to get  
19      recourse, it makes it difficult so we'd rather  
20      not have it, rather than have that burden put  
21      on us. There's enough burden dealing locally  
22      by coming to all of these meetings, but we do  
23      it because we care. But we can do it all, and  
24      we don't have to prejudice and be biased  
25      against one part of the community in this

1 nation.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

4 Card No. 38.

5 Card No. 39.

6 Card No. 40. Card No. 40 through 45. Are  
7 you 40, sir?

8 MR. McMANUS: Forty-one.

9 MS. LINNENBRINK: Forty-one.

10 MR. McMANUS: Good afternoon. My name is  
11 John McManus, M-C-M-A-N-U-S. I have the honor  
12 of directing NCOR, National Center for Coral  
13 Reef Research. NCOR is an interdisciplinary  
14 unit in the University of Miami with more than  
15 50 coral reef researchers, making it the  
16 largest coral reef research organization in the  
17 United States.

18 Coral reefs are complex systems.  
19 Understanding them requires understanding their  
20 ecology, geology, chemistry and physical  
21 oceanography as well as the culture, sociology,  
22 economics and legal aspects of the millions of  
23 people whose livelihoods depend on them.

24 An effective program to improve knowledge  
25 based coral reef management must be one that is

1 well organized that includes coordinated  
2 efforts in all of these fields. Currently most  
3 Federal funding has been too highly fragmented  
4 to support truly interdisciplinary reef  
5 research and management.

6 For instance, a proposal to study a  
7 particular species of fish can be weighed  
8 against wanting to study a particular species  
9 of coral as if one or the other was important  
10 but not both. This kind of funding arrangement  
11 leads to very limited forward progress and  
12 understanding reef ecology and reef ecosystems  
13 and thus we do not have the answers that are  
14 vital to management questions.

15 An example of a more appropriate approach  
16 is the long term ecological research program  
17 recently started on the reefs of Moruya.  
18 However, a study of only one remote specific  
19 reef will not provide the information the reef  
20 managements need.

21 I urge you to find ways to provide more  
22 opportunities for teams of scientists to work  
23 with managers and others to conduct the  
24 interdisciplinary research that we need so that  
25 we can take the guesswork out of managing

1 complex coral reefs.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

4 (Applause)

5 Card No. 42. Forty-one?

6 MS. BURTON: Forty-two.

7 MS. LINNENBRINK: Forty-two. He was 41.

8 Thank you. Go ahead.

9 MS. BURTON: Good afternoon, members of  
10 the distinguished panel. My name is Truly  
11 Burton. That's T-R-U-L-Y, B-U-R-T-O-N. I'm  
12 the Government Affairs Director for the  
13 Builders Association of South Florida, which is  
14 the local affiliate for the National  
15 Association of Home Builders, and we are  
16 pleased to be here this afternoon.

17 I want to focus on a couple of different  
18 points as it relates to the home building  
19 industry, which is one of the most heavily  
20 regulated industries in our state and  
21 nationally. And that is the overly complex  
22 regulations which our folks have to deal with  
23 relating to the Corps of Engineers wetlands  
24 permitting as well as the Endangered Species  
25 Act.



1           The Corps of Engineers permitting is  
2           probably one of the most frustrating issues our  
3           folks have to deal with as it relates to  
4           wetlands. It can take up to two years for the  
5           Corps of Engineers locally to issue a permit or  
6           issue a letter telling us we don't need a  
7           permit. Now, I've got to tell you that is just  
8           the most ironic thing I've ever heard.

9           We meet regularly with our Corps of  
10          Engineers folks and we have come to the  
11          conclusion that they are good folks, they are  
12          well intentioned, but I think they are working  
13          in a broken regulatory scheme, and we would  
14          urge several things.

15          Regulatory reform to include time frames  
16          for permit issuance, first. And second, more  
17          staff support. Their office is small. It's  
18          underfunded and underresourced. So we do meet  
19          with them on a regular basis. They know of our  
20          concerns and we are working together with them.

21          We are also meeting with the Corps of  
22          Engineers new Colonel Grosskruger,  
23          who is the Florida Supervisor for those -- for  
24          Corps permitting. They know who we are but  
25          frankly, we are tired of going to meetings and

1 not having any meaningful results. So I'm very  
2 pleased to be here today to have you carry this  
3 message up to the congress secretary as well as  
4 to the White House.

5 And what the result is of all this slow  
6 permitting of these two years to get a  
7 non-permit has been a surreptitious increase in  
8 the cost of new homes. As you all know, down  
9 here our real estate values have gone through  
10 the roof. Affordability of homes is getting  
11 even worse. So our concern is we are really  
12 seeing the price of regulatory inaction and  
13 just sluggish regulatory, you know, time frames  
14 in the cost of homes.

15 Similar concerns are with the Endangered  
16 Species Act and their consulting process. It's  
17 really cumbersome and overburdened and it has  
18 really turned into gamesmanship rather than  
19 either environmental protection or quality or  
20 producing any housing. In Monroe County, which  
21 is where the Florida Keys are located, even the  
22 simplest renovation or expansion of a home can  
23 trigger an ESA action and we have similar  
24 issues.

25 If I would leave you with just two points

1           today from the Local Home Builders Association  
2           regulatory reform, streamline the Corps of  
3           Engineers wetland permitting and speed up that  
4           ESA.

5           Thanks.

6           (Applause)

7           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

8           Card No. 43.

9           MS. WEBB: You'll have to bear with me  
10          because at my age I need bifocals, and I had to  
11          borrow the security guard's bifocals.

12          Well, I'm just going to do the best I can.  
13          They are in the bottom of my purse.

14          Oh, thank you. Okay. Actually they work  
15          pretty good.

16          Hi there. My name is Eva Webb, W-E-B-B.  
17          I happen to be the Chairman of Palm Beach  
18          County's Soil and Water Conservation District,  
19          and I'm also the area Vice President of the  
20          Association of Florida Conservation Districts  
21          serving this area. And I'm here to really talk  
22          to you today about two issues within the Farm  
23          Bureau that impacts some of our landowners  
24          within -- well, I want to say all of our  
25          landowners in the state of Florida.

1           I also wanted to start out just by  
2           thanking you for coming here today and  
3           listening to some of these comments. We really  
4           do appreciate you taking the time to talk to us  
5           and hear some of our concerns.

6           We understand and appreciate everything  
7           the United States Department of Agriculture  
8           Natural Resources Conservation Services has  
9           done to help preserve our natural resources  
10          through the Farm Bill. Soil and Water  
11          Conservation Districts have enjoyed a long  
12          relationship of somewhere around 70 years  
13          within the USDA NRCS. We've worked together to  
14          care for the natural resources of the counties  
15          throughout Florida. Conservation districts  
16          would like to continue to work with the USDA  
17          and NRCS in the future as well. It's been a  
18          very good relationship and we really do  
19          appreciate those folks. They are just the  
20          best.

21          The Technical Assistance Program from the  
22          NRCS field staff, along with the resources  
23          conservation districts and state conservation  
24          agencies provide, is critical to the success of  
25          conservation in Florida. Landowners, producers

1        need quality, technical assistance to maximize  
2        the effectiveness of financial assistance they  
3        receive. Even those producers who do not need  
4        financial help still rely on this technical  
5        help to ensure that they are putting quality  
6        practices on their land. It's the combination  
7        of the two that makes the conservation delivery  
8        system efficient and effective.

9                Currently the Technical Assistance  
10       Conservation Program is limited to serving only  
11       those landowners who fall within specific  
12       criteria of the Farm Bill and that's the way  
13       that it is written. The program falls short in  
14       providing adequate funding to provide services  
15       to all the landowners who might wish to  
16       participate. If the point is to reach as many  
17       landowners as possible, you must provide -- we  
18       need to provide funds to have an impact. There  
19       are many landowners who would use this  
20       technical assistance if it was available to  
21       them and if it was possible and there was  
22       adequate funding.

23                There needs to be additional funding and  
24       some flexibility in the way that the program is  
25       administered to reach more farmers and

1       landowners. I also want to make it clear that  
2       many of the farmers, landowners in Florida are  
3       investing a lot of their own funds in this  
4       because they don't qualify for this assistance,  
5       but we could reach so many more if we would  
6       have some more flexibility in that area.

7               The two points I want to get across today  
8       to you are we need additional funding to  
9       administer the Technical Assistance  
10      Conservation Program. And No. 2, the program  
11      should serve all landowners, not just those  
12      that fall within the guidelines and the scope  
13      of the Farm Bill Program.

14             I just wanted to go on to tell you that  
15      the Technical Assistance Program is a valuable  
16      tool for landowners to utilize in order to  
17      understand conservation practices and wildlife  
18      habitat. Without this resource, many  
19      landowners may be in the dark on which  
20      conservation practices are best for their  
21      lands.

22             The Florida conservation districts are  
23      concerned about the focus of conservation  
24      technical assistance only for specific Farm  
25      Bill programs, thereby not providing general

1 technical assistance to others.

2 We understand and appreciate the support  
3 and support the need to fully implement each of  
4 the Farm Bill Conservation Programs but we feel  
5 that Conservation Technical Assistance at the  
6 local level should not strictly be tied to a  
7 Farm Bill program.

8 MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, ma'am.

9 MS. WEBB: Is that it?

10 MS. LINNENBRINK: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

11 MS. WEBB: Okay. Thank you very much, and  
12 I will leave my comments out front.

13 MS. LINNENBRINK: Yes. There is a box out  
14 front.

15 Card No. 44.

16 MR. VAN LEER: Hi. I'm John Van Leer and  
17 I'm on the faculty here at the Rosenstiel  
18 School. I also sit on the Board of the Urban  
19 Environmental League here in South Florida.

20 I want to bring two points to your  
21 attention. One of them has to do with work of  
22 a well offshore. There has been considerable  
23 interest in oil drilling on the west Florida  
24 shelf, and the notion that you can drill in  
25 100 miles off or 200 miles off and somehow that

1       will make it okay, as an oceanographer or  
2       physical oceanographer, we study the Gulf  
3       Stream and the loop current and there is a  
4       circulation that oft at times goes almost up to  
5       Louisiana and then down around the west Florida  
6       shelf.

7               We've lost oceanographic gear on the west  
8       Florida shelf and invariably it ends up on the  
9       east coast of Florida, having been carried  
10      around the southern tip by the Gulf Stream and  
11      then blown ashore by the prevailing easterly  
12      winds and onto the peninsula anywhere from the  
13      Keys on up through the Palm Beaches or so. So  
14      the Gold Coast is the recipient of whatever  
15      spills or leaks or comes adrift on the west  
16      Florida shelf. That's point one.

17             The second point is the sea level is  
18      rising at a rate of about an inch per decade.  
19      Since Miami has existed, that translates to be  
20      nearly a foot. And whether the sea level will  
21      rise at an accelerated rate is a matter of  
22      modeling, and there is some evidence to suggest  
23      that it will.

24             In order to maintain a freshwater aquifer,  
25      we have to allow the fresh water to sit two and



1       a half feet above the level of the saline  
2       water. So there are a series of salinity  
3       control structures being constructed for that  
4       purpose. This will also apply on the western  
5       side.

6               So as sea level continues to rise, the  
7       southern Everglades are inundating and will  
8       inundate quicker, and in order to protect our  
9       water resources we are going to have to allow  
10      the freshwater level within the Everglades and  
11      the adjacent areas to rise as well. And so  
12      it's very likely that some of the areas which  
13      have already been developed on the western  
14      fringes of Miami will have to be bought up and  
15      reflooded in order to maintain fresh water in  
16      our state.

17             And so with suggestions that we desalinize  
18      to get our fresh water in a rising energy price  
19      environment is a little absurd.

20             Thank you.

21             (Applause)

22             MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, sir.

23             Card No. 45.

24             Card No. 46.

25             Are there any other individuals in the

1 audience that would like a chance to speak that  
2 have not had a chance to speak yet?

3 All right. With that, I would like to ask  
4 Mr. Hamilton from the Department of Interior  
5 down to the microphone to provide his closing  
6 remarks.

7 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for being here  
8 today, and I know many of you felt rushed to  
9 give your remarks, and you have an opportunity  
10 to drop your comments off. This is one of many  
11 listening sessions going on all across the  
12 country.

13 I heard a lot. And it's interesting where  
14 you sit is how you view conservation. And  
15 those of us who have been in the field for 25,  
16 30 years feel very passionate about natural  
17 resources. And certainly you here in South  
18 Florida, you can tell, we greatly appreciate  
19 those natural resources.

20 I heard there is strong support for many  
21 many programs that occur in coral reef work and  
22 certainly a lot of work in South Florida and  
23 they continue to support those programs. They  
24 are advancing conservation. The leveraging  
25 resources is extremely important. Federal

1       dollars, state dollars matched for private  
2       money can get a lot done.

3               And certainly the most effective  
4       conservation programs are those that engage  
5       stakeholders and partners, and certain that's  
6       been a success in the Florida Keys and in  
7       sanctuary programs and many of the programs  
8       like Everglades Conservation.

9               And I guess the other thing is a strong  
10      economy can go hand-in-hand with a strong  
11      environment, but in order to have a strong  
12      economy, we have to have a permitting program  
13      and a regulatory program that works and that  
14      time is money. And some of the delays seem to  
15      be untenable in just simply processing permits  
16      and we all know that very well.

17              So thank you on my behalf, and certainly  
18      on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, and  
19      I took a lot of notes, and we had folks here  
20      taking notes, and I will make sure that those  
21      are passed on to the Secretaries.

22              Thank you.

23              (Applause)

24              MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, Mr. Hamilton.

25              Deputy Secretary Ballard, would you care

1 to make some closing remarks?

2 Director Haddad?

3 MR. HADDAD: I think we didn't hear  
4 anything new today. In fact, some of the  
5 things we heard we've all been dealing with in  
6 our careers for the last 20 or 30 years, some  
7 of us.

8 The question now, I think, coming forward  
9 is how do we really tackle some of these larger  
10 problems that were presented today down to some  
11 smaller local issues. And I guess I would say  
12 that we've got to build the partnerships to do  
13 it. It's the only way. There is no way to  
14 stand alone anymore. It may have been possible  
15 in the past. The agencies represented here and  
16 those that aren't represented here are working  
17 harder, I believe, in partnerships but we've  
18 got to bring all of you together to do that.

19 And I urge everyone to make sure that we  
20 build our efforts through partnership. That's  
21 from the science, we need better cooperation  
22 and partnership in creating the science we need  
23 for our solutions. The management, we've got  
24 to have better partnerships there, and the  
25 policy making.

1           And so it's very important to stay on  
2           these issues or we'll spend another 20 years  
3           trying to solve some of them that -- I think  
4           we've really -- if we put our minds and bodies  
5           together, we can solve many of the issues  
6           confronting us.

7           MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, Director  
8           Haddad.

9           Dr. Crabtree, would you like to provide  
10          some closing remarks?

11          DR. CRABTREE: I want to thank all of you  
12          for being here today and sharing your concerns  
13          with us. I heard a lot in particular today  
14          about coral reefs and their importance, and I  
15          know in this area that is a topic of great  
16          concern to many of us. We face a lot of  
17          challenges there.

18          One of the things that came home to me  
19          with coral reefs is the need for more research,  
20          and particularly the need for a greater  
21          involvement with the international community  
22          here in the greater Caribbean base, and I think  
23          that's right on. And we heard a little bit of  
24          light about that even with regard to the spiny  
25          lobster fishery and what's going on down here.

1       So I think that is on track and I think we do  
2       have to remain engaged in partnerships with our  
3       Caribbean neighbors in order to take care of  
4       some of these important issues.

5               I also heard a lot about the Everglades  
6       and I think we heard a lot of good things about  
7       the Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary and that  
8       program seems to be working well. So I  
9       encourage all of you to stay involved and stay  
10      engaged in the management process.

11             I think it is all about partnerships and  
12      we need all of your organizations and  
13      individuals to remain engaged, share your views  
14      with us. So I thank all of you for being here  
15      today.

16             MS. LINNENBRINK: Thank you, Dr. Crabtree.

17             Mr. Basta, would you care to make some  
18      closing remarks? I won't cut you off this  
19      time, I promise.

20             MR. BASTA: That's okay.

21             MS. LINNENBRINK: All right. Thank you,  
22      audience, for joining us today. We appreciate  
23      your input on Cooperative Conservation.

24             I would also like to thank the panel  
25      members for joining us today. I'm sure they

1           are very busy. And I appreciate them taking  
2           the time to listen.

3                 I do want to remind you that if you're  
4           hungry, there is a nice cafeteria that  
5           overlooks the bay. It's right through the two  
6           glass doors by the registration table. If you  
7           go all the way down, it's on your right-hand  
8           side.

9                 And also there is the faculty seminar  
10          series today. They are presenting Dr. John  
11          McManus, the Science for Coral Reef Management  
12          Under Climate Change. If you're interested in  
13          attending that, you can see me and I can give  
14          you the room number.

15                If not, I again appreciate everyone being  
16          here and I hope you all have a wonderful  
17          afternoon and a good weekend.

18                Thank you very much.

19                (Thereupon, the Cooperative Conservation  
20          Listening Session was concluded at  
21          12:55 o'clock p.m.)

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## CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA )

COUNTY OF BROWARD )

I, TAMARA A. KILBARGER-JENKINS, Registered  
Merit Reporter, and Certified Realtime  
Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and  
did stenographically report the foregoing  
proceedings and that the transcript is a true  
and complete record of my stenographic notes.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2006.

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TAMARA A. KILBARGER-JENKINS, RMR, CRR